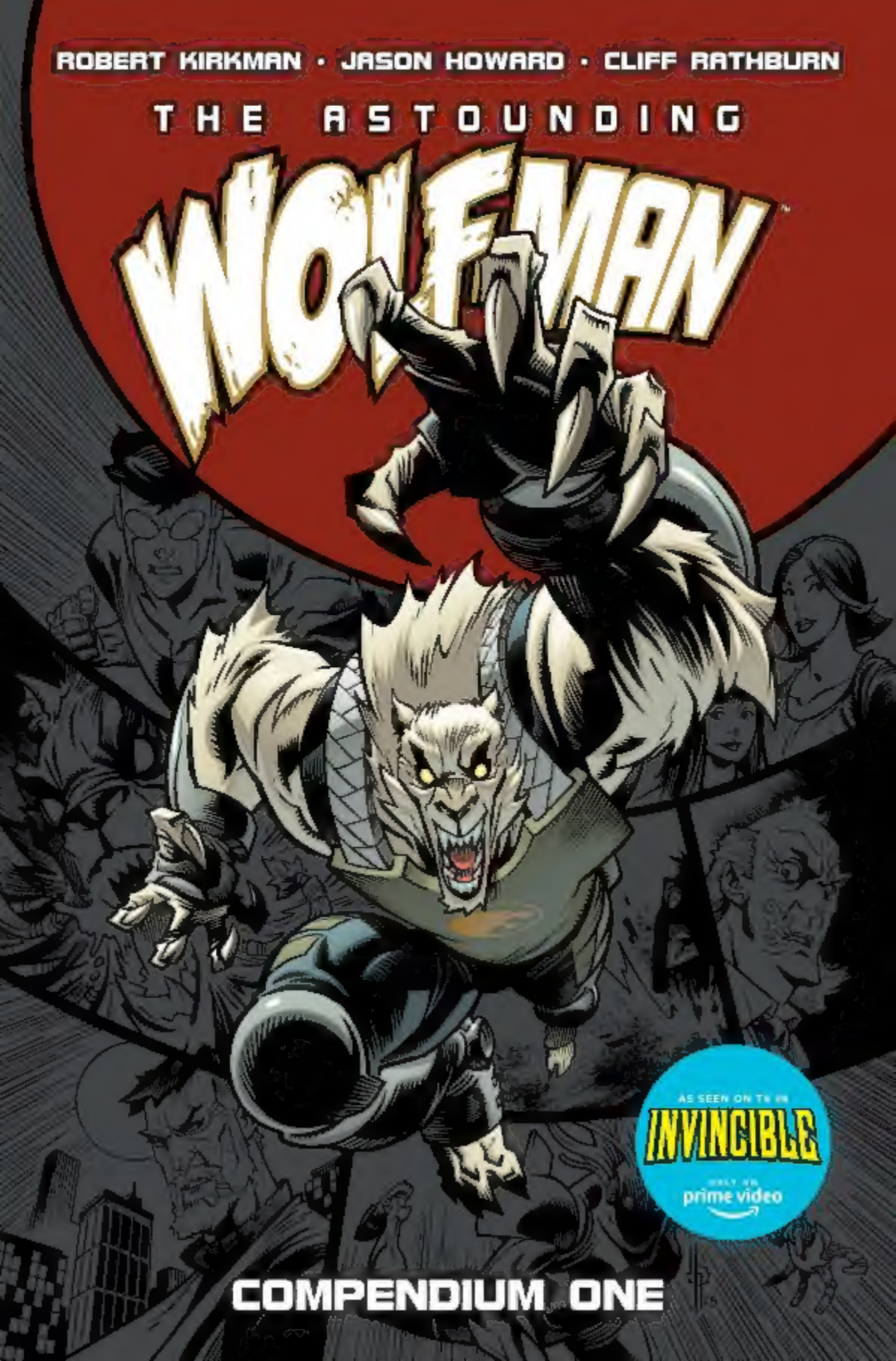


ROBERT KIRKMAN • JASON HOWARD • CLIFF RATHBURN

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFMAN



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WOLF-MAN

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



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writer

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created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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WILLOW CREEK
CAMPING GROUND.

WILLOW CREEK,
MONTANA.



DADDY?

GARY, PLEASE--JUST
HANG ON. PLEASE--THE
AMBULANCE JUST PULLED
UP--THE PARAMEDICS
WILL BE HERE ANY
SECOND.

JUST
HANG
ON.



REBECCA,
HONEY... IT
FEELS LIKE
I--LIKE
MY--

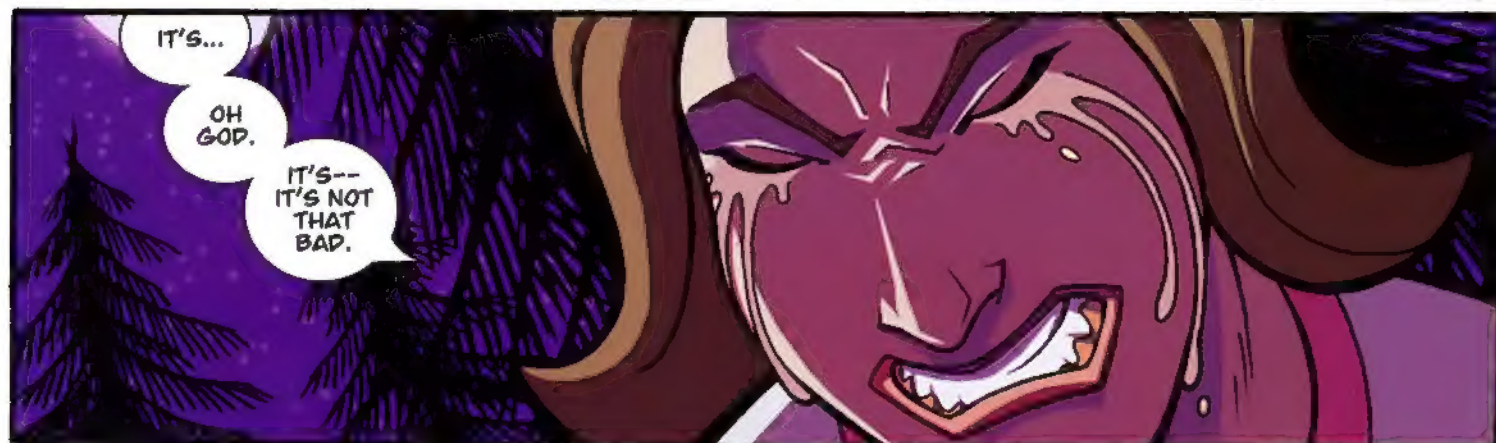
IS IT
BAD?



IT'S...

OH
GOD.

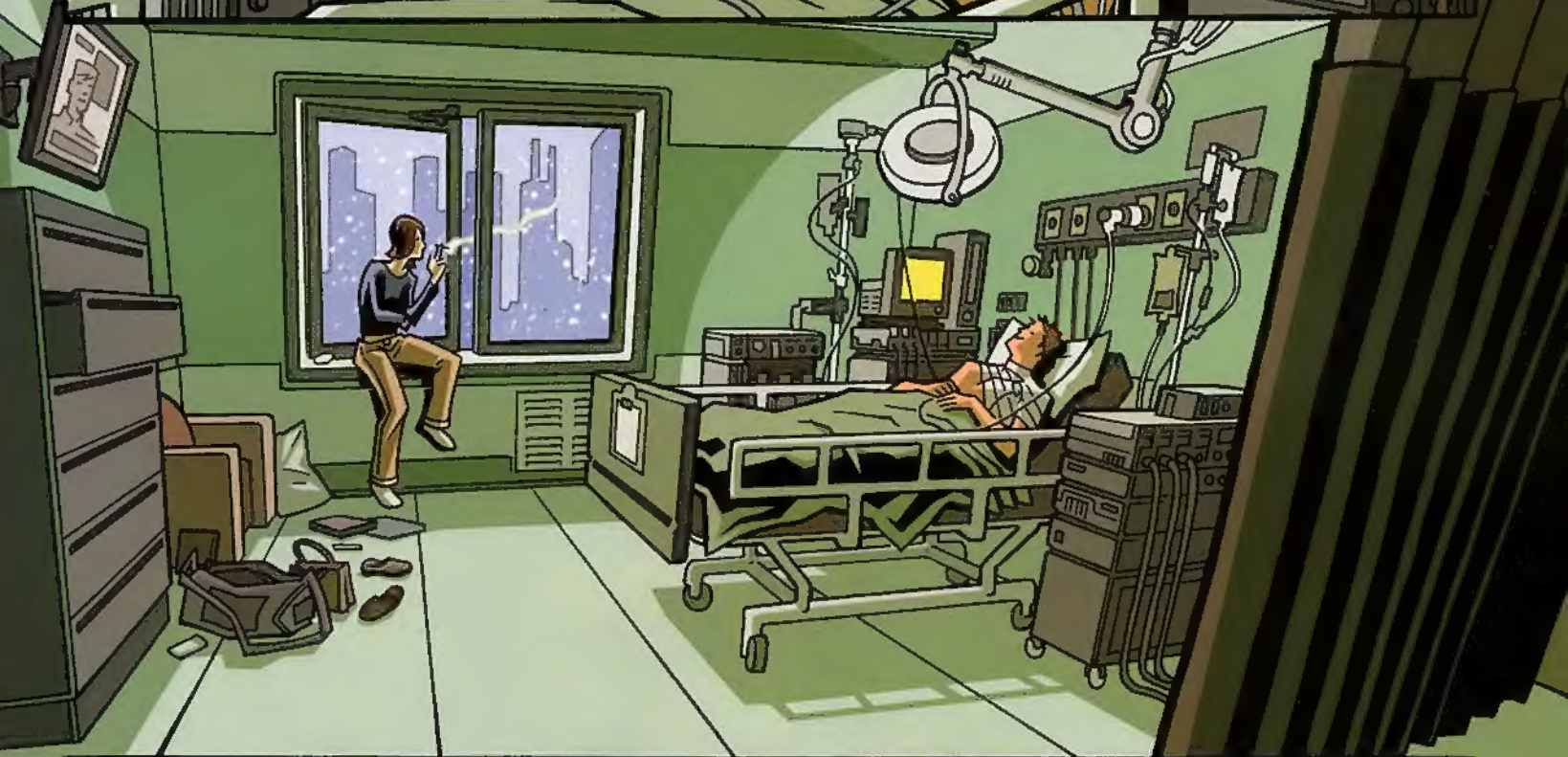
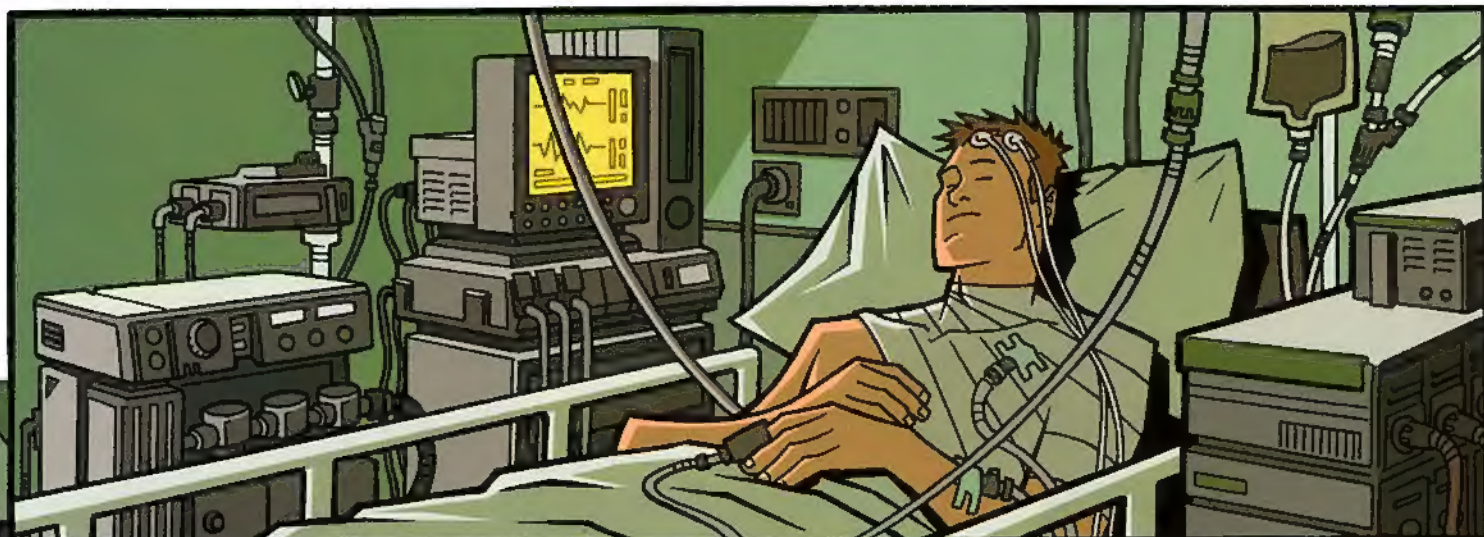
IT'S--
IT'S NOT
THAT
BAD.

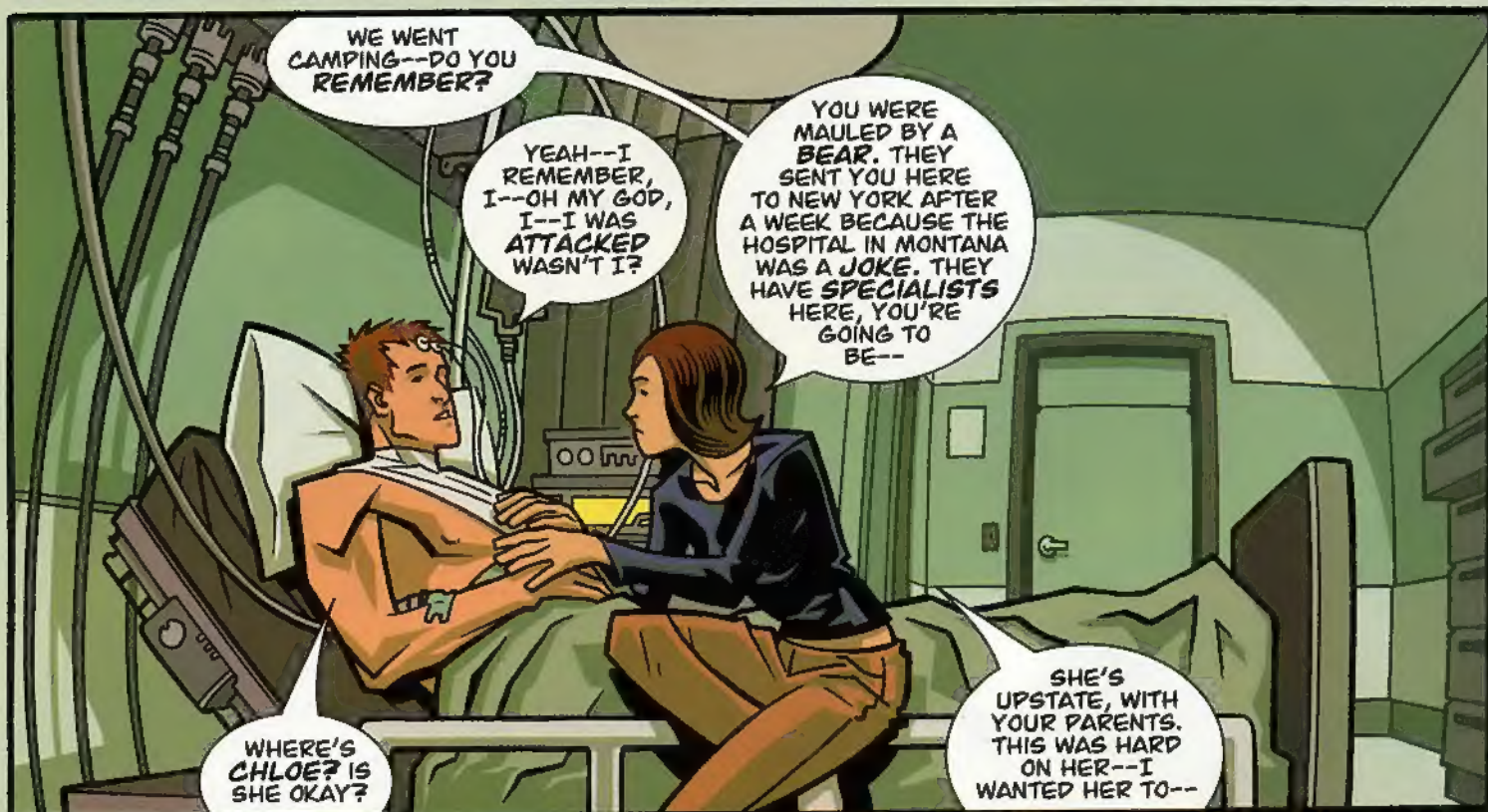


S'FUNNY.

IT
FEELS
LIKE IT'S
PRETTY
BAD.





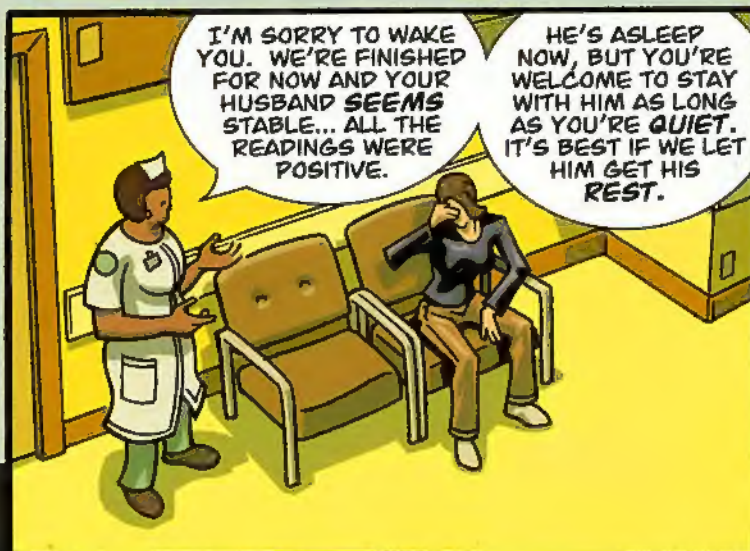




LATER THAT EVENING.

MRS. HAMPTON?

HHN--
UH--
YES...?



I'M SORRY TO WAKE YOU. WE'RE FINISHED FOR NOW AND YOUR HUSBAND **SEEMS** STABLE... ALL THE READINGS WERE POSITIVE.

HE'S ASLEEP NOW, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY WITH HIM AS LONG AS YOU'RE **QUIET**. IT'S BEST IF WE LET HIM GET HIS REST.



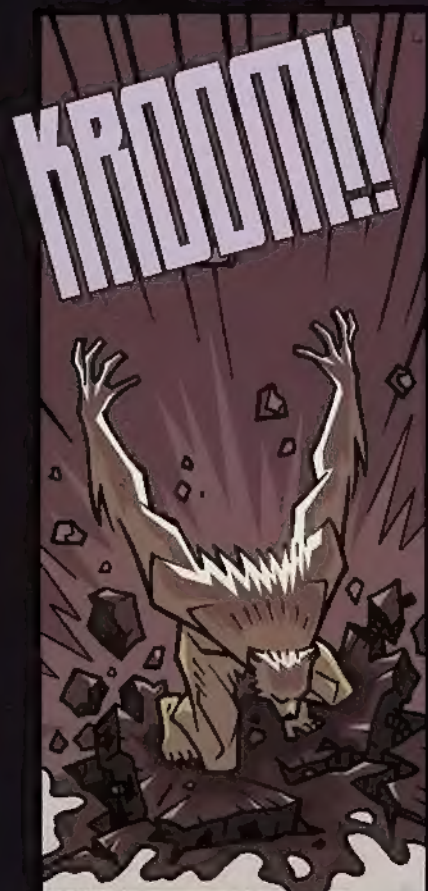
NO, I--I'LL JUST COME BACK **TOMORROW**. I'M GOING TO THE HOTEL TO GET A FEW HOURS SLEEP BEFORE I COME BACK IN THE MORNING.

I--I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH HIM JUST **SLEEPING** AGAIN AFTER SEEING HIM AWAKE.

I UNDERSTAND.





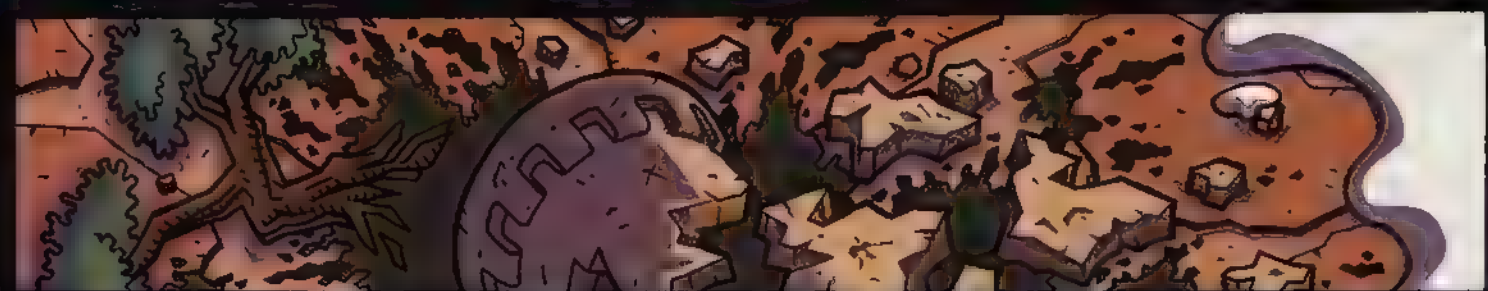




SNARRLL!

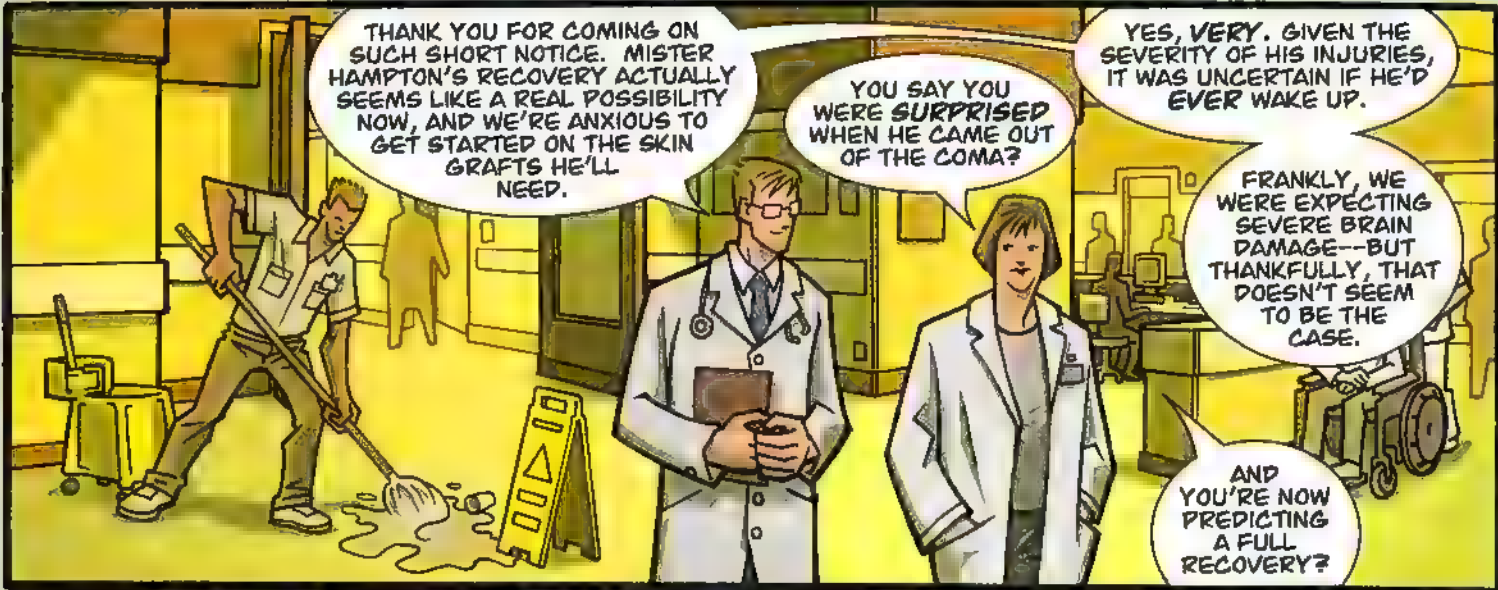


YEEAGGH!





THE NEXT MORNING.



THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. MISTER HAMPTON'S RECOVERY ACTUALLY SEEMS LIKE A REAL POSSIBILITY NOW, AND WE'RE ANXIOUS TO GET STARTED ON THE SKIN GRAFTS HE'LL NEED.

YOU SAY YOU WERE **SURPRISED** WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE COMA?

YES, VERY. GIVEN THE SEVERITY OF HIS INJURIES, IT WAS UNCERTAIN IF HE'D EVER WAKE UP.

FRANKLY, WE WERE EXPECTING SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE--BUT THANKFULLY, THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE.

AND YOU'RE NOW PREDICTING A FULL RECOVERY?

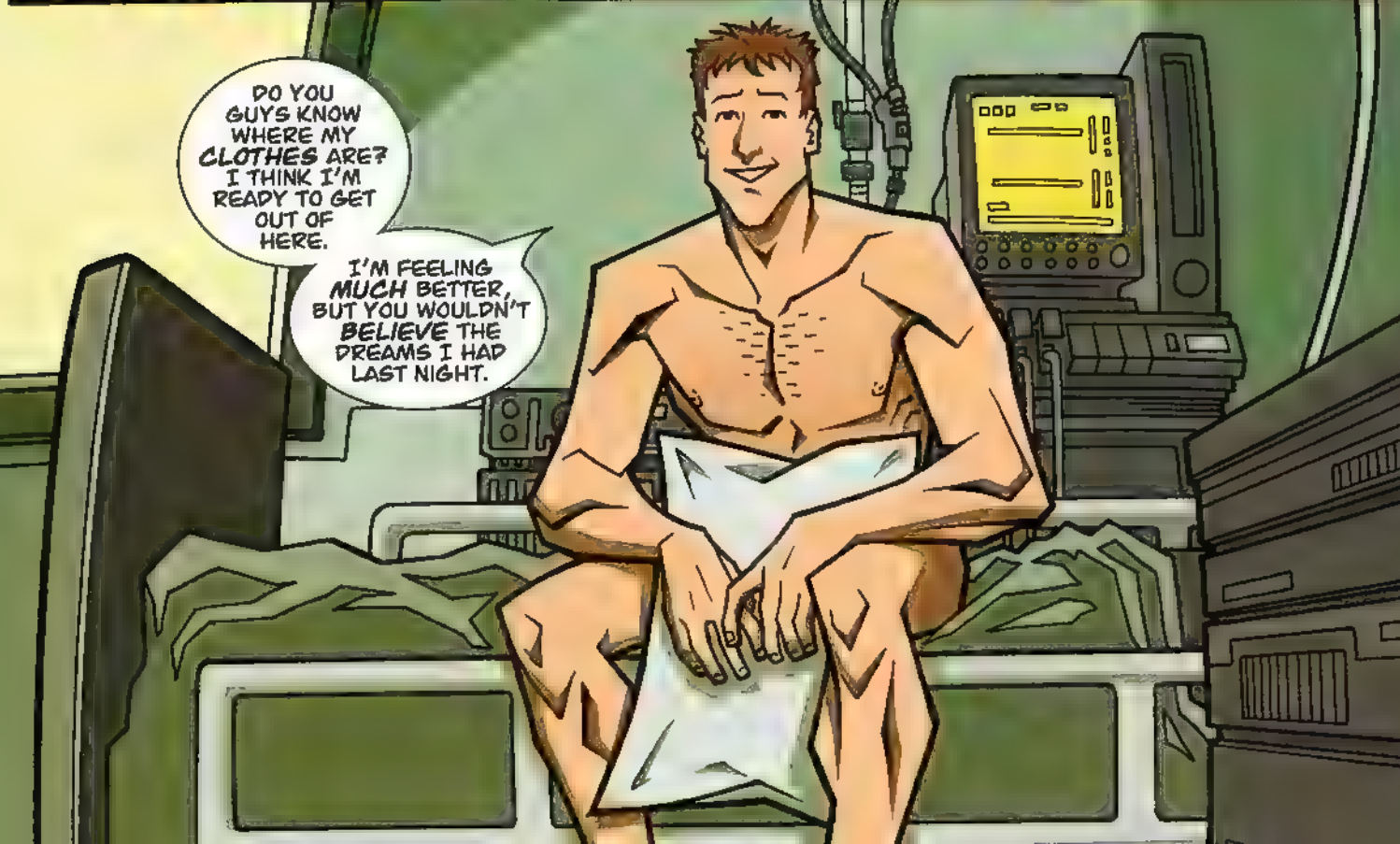


WITH YOUR EXPERTISE AND THE NECESSARY PHYSICAL THERAPY, YES, I FEEL CONFIDENT HE CAN LEAD A PERFECTLY NORMAL LIFE.



GASP!

ER...?



DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHERE MY CLOTHES ARE? I THINK I'M READY TO GET OUT OF HERE.

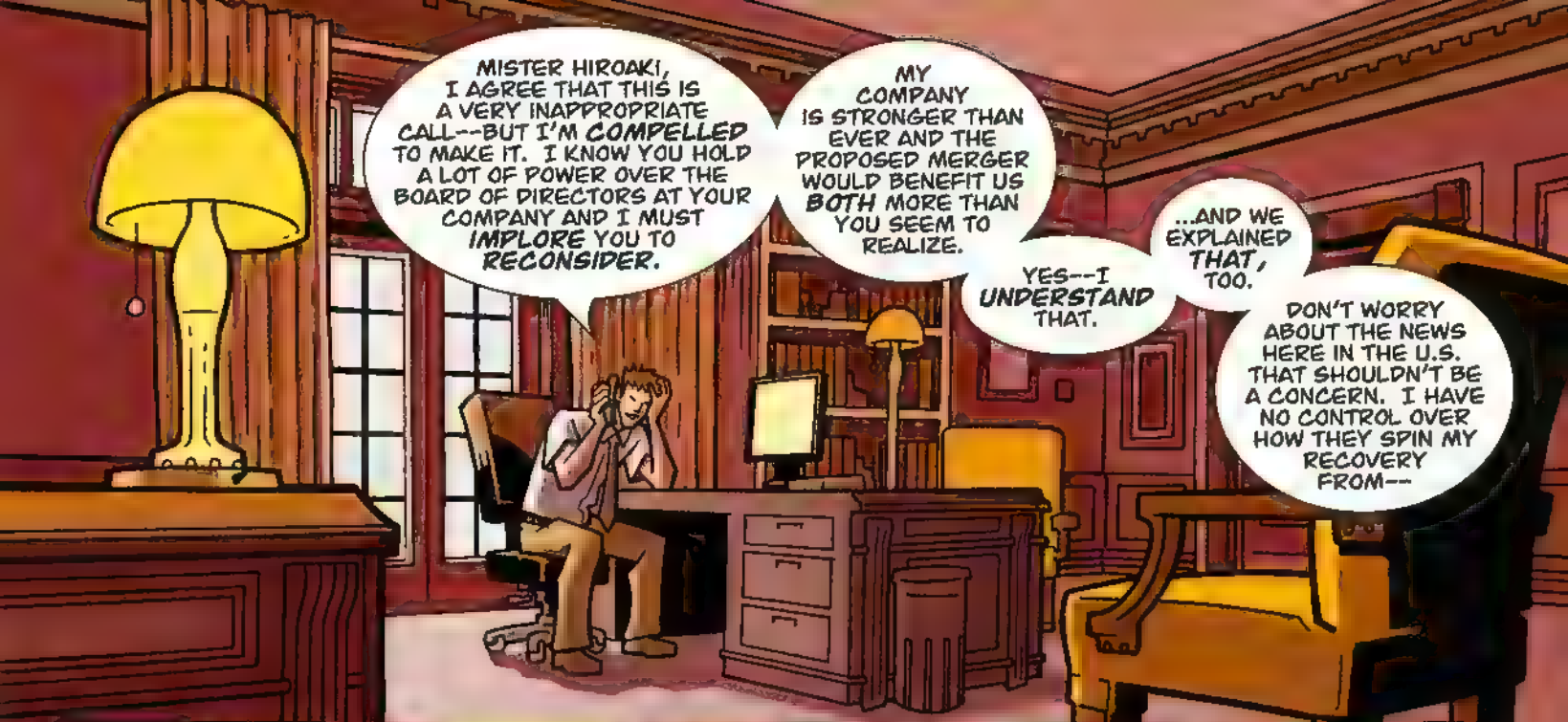
I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER, BUT YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE DREAMS I HAD LAST NIGHT.

ONE MONTH LATER.

THE HAMPTON ESTATE.







MISTER HIROAKI, I AGREE THAT THIS IS A VERY INAPPROPRIATE CALL--BUT I'M COMPELLED TO MAKE IT. I KNOW YOU HOLD A LOT OF POWER OVER THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT YOUR COMPANY AND I MUST EMPLORE YOU TO RECONSIDER.

MY COMPANY IS STRONGER THAN EVER AND THE PROPOSED MERGER WOULD BENEFIT US BOTH MORE THAN YOU SEEM TO REALIZE.

YES--I UNDERSTAND THAT.

...AND WE EXPLAINED THAT, TOO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NEWS HERE IN THE U.S. THAT SHOULDN'T BE A CONCERN. I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER HOW THEY SPIN MY RECOVERY FROM--



SIR, YOU--

HELLO?



CLICK



DAD?



HEY, KIDDO-- WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



I KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BOTHER YOU BUT MARIA SAID DINNER WILL BE READY SOON--AND WE STILL HAVEN'T PLAYED THAT GAME.

YOU'RE NOT BACKING OUT AGAIN ARE YOU?



NO, I--OF COURSE NOT.

LET'S GO.



DAD...IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

EVERYTHING IS FINE, CHLOE.

EVERYTHING IS...

FINE.





SHE'S GETTING REALLY GOOD. I MEAN... REALLY GOOD. I WAS AMAZED. I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP UP... HER BACKHAND HAS REALLY IMPROVED. SHE WIPED THE COURT WITH ME.

IT WAS SAD.

OUR LITTLE GIRL IS GROWING UP.

BITE YOUR TONGUE. SHE'LL BE MY LITTLE GIRL UNTIL THE BOYS PRY HER OUT OF MY COLD DEAD HANDS.

I DON'T THINK THE MERGER IS GOING TO WORK OUT. THE ECONOMY OVERSEAS IS SO STRONG THAT I DON'T EVEN THINK WE CAN COMPETE. OUR NUMBERS LOOK TERRIBLE TO THEM.

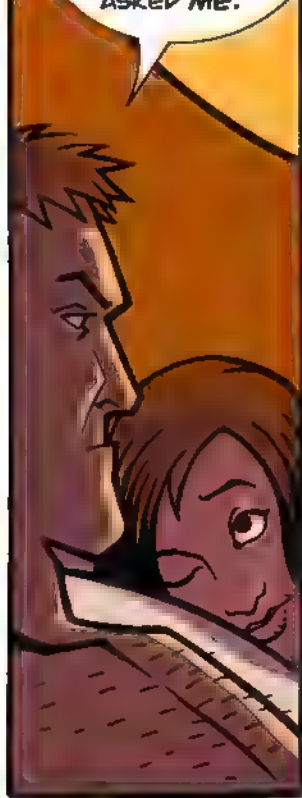
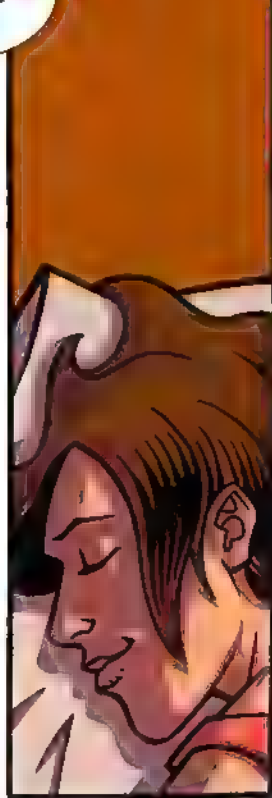
SO, NOT WELL, IT DIDN'T GO--

OH, VERY FUNNY. REALLY, THIS BIT ALWAYS MAKES ME LAUGH. DON'T FORGET--YOU ASKED ME.



NICE VISUAL.

HOW'D THE CONFERENCE CALL GO?



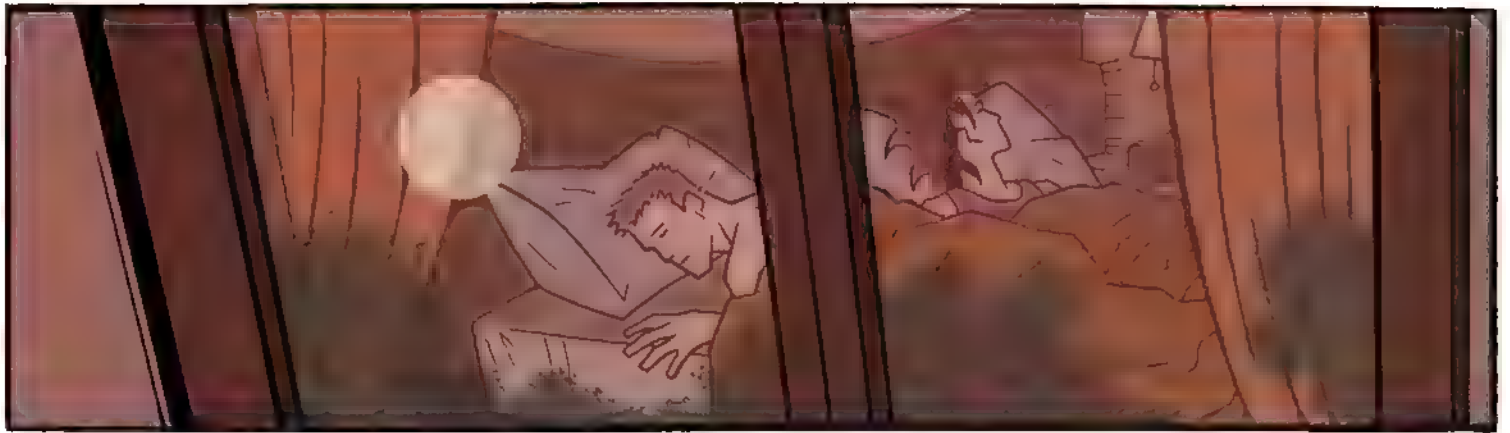
I'M SORRY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS ASKING FOR TROUBLE. I'M JUST TIRED, I-- LET'S GO TO SLEEP.

OKAY?

OKAY.



GOODNIGHT.



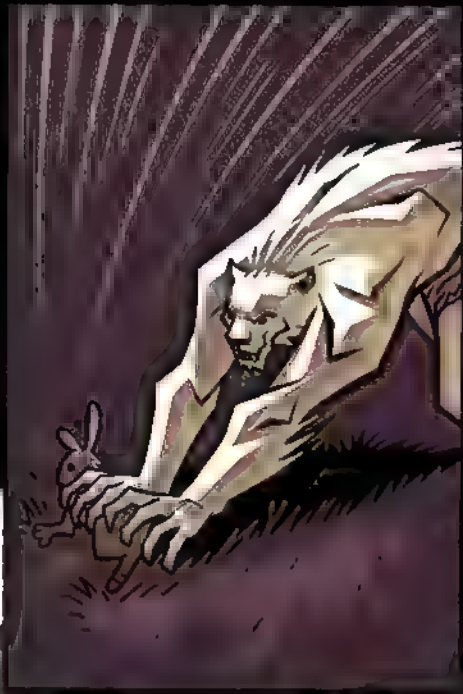
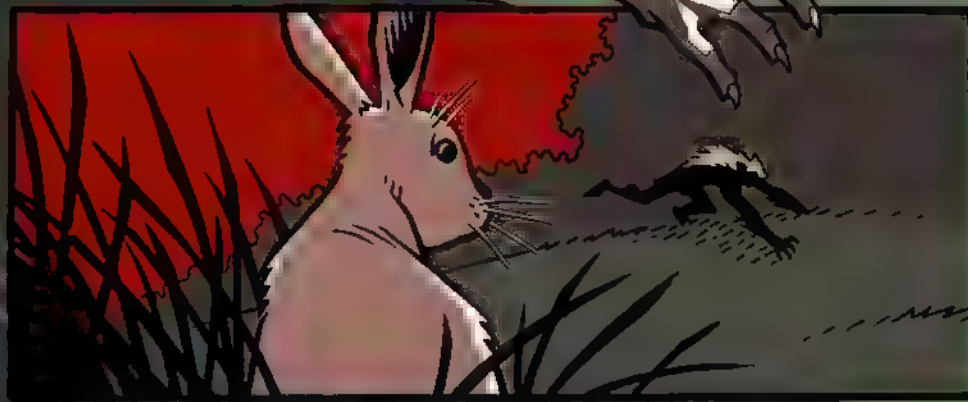
UNGH...
UMM... YOU
OKAY?

HMMPH.

HAUHH!

HAUUKK!

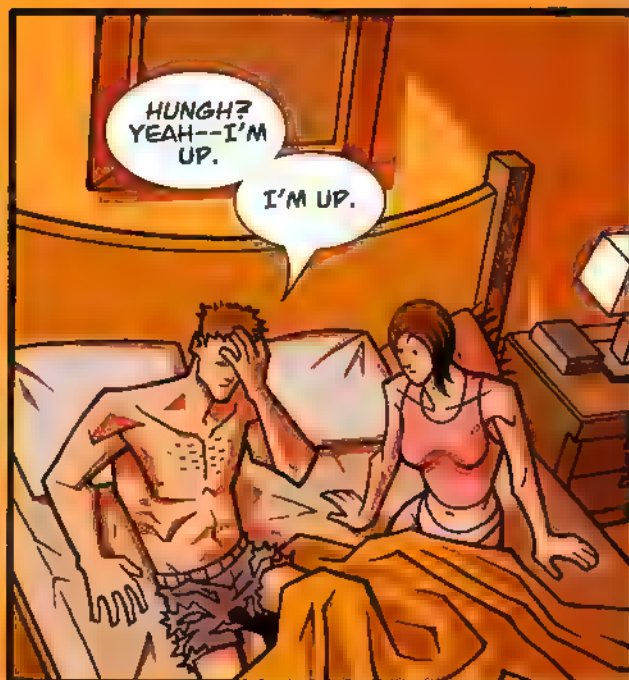






C'MON, GARY--
RISE AND
SHINE.

MY
WORKAHOLIC
HUSBAND SLEPT
PAST FIVE-THIRTY...
I THINK THE WORLD
IS ENDING OR
SOMETHING.



HUNGH?
YEAH--I'M
UP.

I'M UP.



HONEY?

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
SHORTS?



I--I
HAVE NO
IDEA.

WEIRD.

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

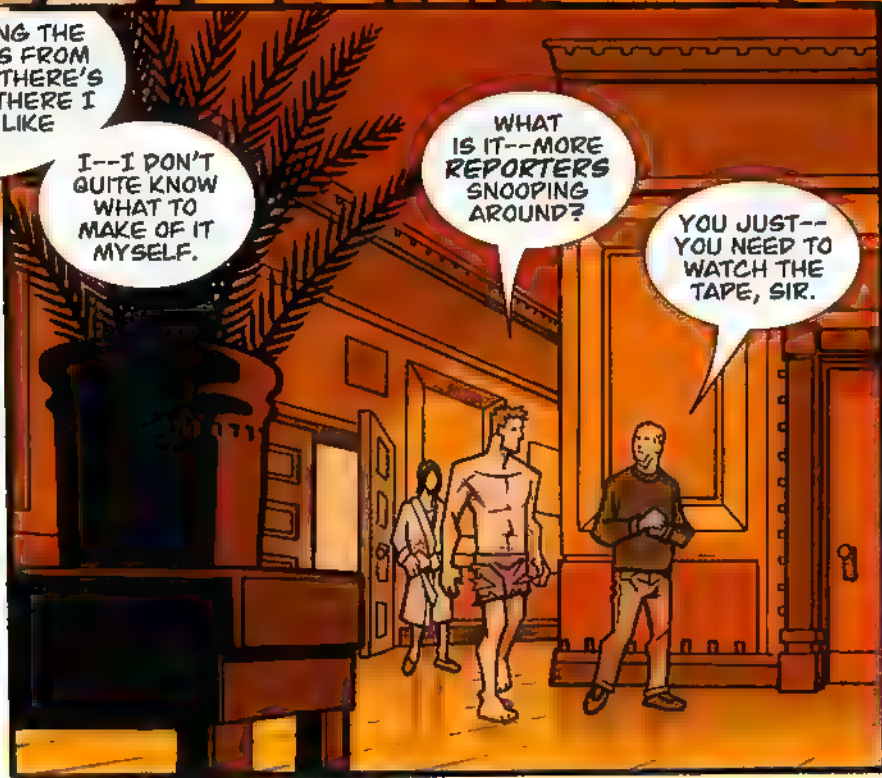
PARDON THE
INTRUSION, GARY--
REBECCA, BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING
THAT REQUIRES
YOUR ATTENTION
IMMEDIATELY.



WHAT IS IT,
DUNFORD?

I WAS REVIEWING THE
SECURITY TAPES FROM
LAST NIGHT AND THERE'S
SOMETHING ON THERE I
THINK YOU'D LIKE
TO SEE.

I--I DON'T
QUITE KNOW
WHAT TO
MAKE OF IT
MYSELF.



WHAT
IS IT--MORE
REPORTERS
SNOOPING
AROUND?

YOU JUST--
YOU NEED TO
WATCH THE
TAPE, SIR.



WELL,
HE WASN'T
MAULED BY
A BEAR.

THAT
MUCH IS
CERTAIN.



DUNFORD--TELL
SECURITY WE'VE
GOT ANOTHER
REPORTER IN
THE HOUSE.

GET
THIS JERK
OUT OF
HERE.



I ASSURE YOU, GARY
HAMPTON--I AM NO
REPORTER. THERE'S
NO NEED TO CALL
SECURITY.

I'M HERE
TO HELP
YOU.



HELP
ME WITH
WHAT?!



YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU WITH.
YOU SIMPLY REFUSE
TO ADMIT IT.

THE TRAGEDY
AT THE CAMPGROUND,
THE INCIDENT AT THE
HOSPITAL AND THE
EVENT FROM LAST
NIGHT--ALL HAPPENED
EXACTLY A MONTH
APART.

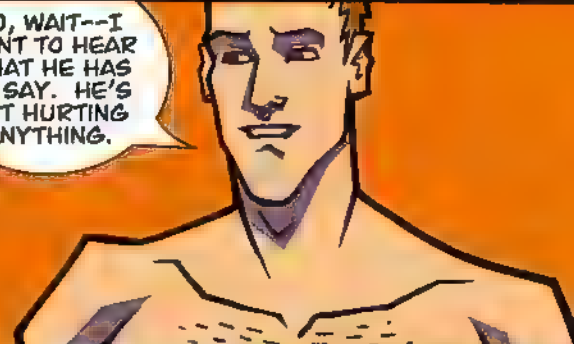
A LUNAR
CYCLE APART--
ALL ON THE
FIRST NIGHT
OF THE FULL
MOON.



DON'T
YOU SEE
WHERE
THIS IS
GOING?



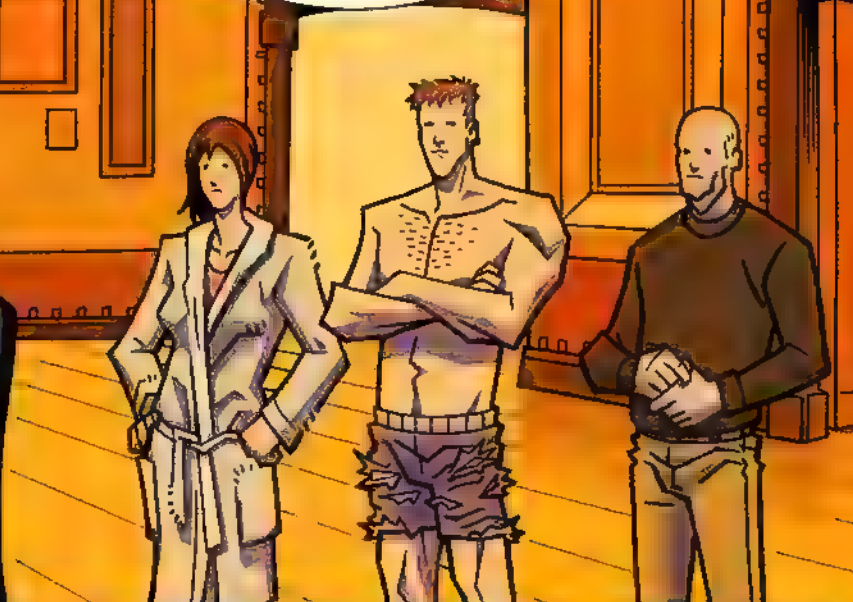
DUNFORD--
CALL SECURITY
NOW.



NO, WAIT--I
WANT TO HEAR
WHAT HE HAS
TO SAY. HE'S
NOT HURTING
ANYTHING.



I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU--
MAKING SURE MY SUSPICIONS
WERE CORRECT. MAKING
SURE I WAS RIGHT. YOU DO
BEAR THE CURSE--YOU ARE
WHAT I HAVE HOPED
YOU TO BE.



YOU HAVE BEEN
TRANSFORMED--YOUR
LIFE AS YOU KNEW IT IS
OVER. YOU'VE CHANGED,
YOU'VE BEEN REBORN--
YOU'RE ON A NEW PATH
NOW, ONE I THINK YOU'LL
AGREE IS VERY
IMPORTANT.

I'VE TAKEN
AN INTEREST IN
YOU--I'M GOING
TO MENTOR
YOU.



YOU ARE A
BEING OF GREAT
POWER--BUT
THAT POWER IS
RAW--UNCHECKED--
DANGEROUS.

I'M GOING
TO TEACH YOU
TO HARNESS
THAT POWER--
TO CONTROL
THE BEAST
WITHIN.



AND JUST
HOW ARE YOU
GOING TO DO
THAT?



I'LL START BY
TEACHING YOU
EVERYTHING
I KNOW.

AND I
ASSURE
YOU...



I KNOW A
THING OR TWO
ABOUT THE
SUPERNATURAL.



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WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



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writer

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penciler, inker, colorist

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THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE. YOU'VE IMPROVED A GREAT DEAL OVER THESE LAST FEW WEEKS.

HAVE I?

I'VE GOTTEN A BETTER HANDLE ON CONTROLLING MY TRANSFORMATIONS, YES--BUT I'M STILL HAVING A HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO THIS BODY. I'M STILL NOT USED TO HOW STRONG I AM. I ALMOST LEAPT CLEAR OVER THIS BUILDING.

AND REBECCA-- SHE'S STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE FACT THAT I'VE ALLOWED YOU TO TRAIN ME. SHE DOESN'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF THE DEAL.

SHE DOESN'T TRUST YOU.

KROOM!



WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU GETTING OUT OF THE DEAL, ZECHARIAH?

YOU ARE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, LIKE MYSELF--AND YOU ARE A BEING OF GREAT POWER.

IT IS NOT EASY FOR ONE SUCH AS MYSELF TO GAIN AN ALLY AND ONE AS POWERFUL AS YOU WILL BE VERY GOOD TO HAVE.





THAT'S ANOTHER THING--
SO IF YOU'RE A VAMPIRE
WHY IS IT THAT I NEVER SEE
YOU DRINKING BLOOD? I
MEAN, THAT'S SOMETHING
YOU DO, RIGHT?



SOME
THINGS ARE
BETTER LEFT
UNSAID, MY
FRIEND.

MOST OF
WHAT YOU KNOW
OF VAMPIRES IS
TRUE. I DO DRINK
BLOOD. YES, BUT
IT DOES NOT ALWAYS
HAVE TO BE HUMAN
AND IT'S NOT
SOMETHING I
HAVE TO DO
FREQUENTLY.



THAT'S A
RELIEF.



REST ASSURED,
GARY--YOU'VE
DEFINITELY COME UP
WITH A **WINNER** IN
THE SUPERNATURAL
LOTTERY.

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO DO ANYTHING UNSAVORY
LIKE DRINK BLOOD TO MAINTAIN
YOUR EXISTENCE. WITH SIMPLE
TRAINING YOU CAN TRANSFORM
AT WILL DURING THE NIGHT AND
CONTROL YOUR WOLF-FORM.
YOUR TRANSFORMATION HEALS
ALL WOUNDS YOU'VE SUSTAINED
IN THE PREVIOUS FORM. WHILE
IN WOLF-FORM YOU HAVE
INCREASED STRENGTH, STAMINA
AND AGILITY--AS WELL AS
ENHANCED SENSES.

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
VERY FEW
COMPLAINTS.



HONESTLY, **NONE** COME
TO MIND. ASIDE FROM
SOME DISAGREEMENTS
WITH MY WIFE OVER SOME
THINGS--THIS IS THE
BEST THING THAT'S
EVER HAPPENED
TO ME.



GIVE IT
TIME.

...

YOU
SHOULD
MAKE YOUR
WAY HOME...
THE SUN
WILL BE UP
SOON.



MORNING HON'.

GARY! WILL YOU STOP COMING IN LIKE THAT IN THE MORNINGS? WHAT IF MARIA SEES YOU?

SHE'LL THINK I WAS OUT JOGGING EARLY IN THE MORNING... HALF NAKED... WITH NO SHOES?

I'M SERIOUS. WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP YOUR LITTLE SECRET FROM GETTING PAST US AND PUNFORD, AREN'T WE?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO IF CHLOE FOUND OUT. SHE COULD WAKE UP AT ANY MOMENT.



I SERIOUSLY DOUBT SOMEONE SEEING ME WALK IN BAREFOOT WITH NO SHIRT IS GOING TO MAKE THEM IMMEDIATELY SUSPECT I'M A WEREWOLF.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.



SOMEBODY HAS TO.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THIS? I'M NOT REALLY ENJOYING SLEEPING ALONE EVERY NIGHT.

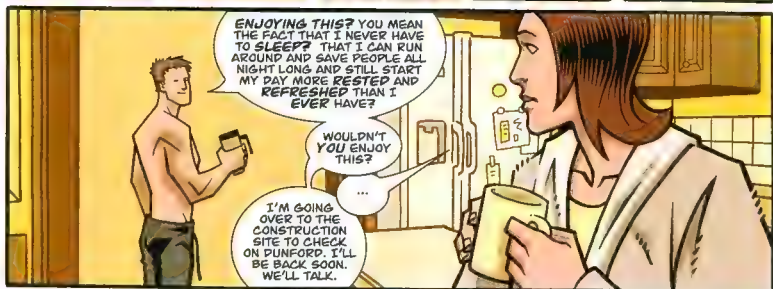


WHAT I'M DOING IS IMPORTANT, REBECCA. FROM THE MINUTE I DISCOVERED I HAD THESE POWERS I KNEW I COULD USE THEM TO DO SOME GOOD.

I MAKE DONATIONS AND BUILD LIBRARIES AND ALL KINDS OF CHARITY STUFF-- BUT THIS FEELS REAL. BEING THERE, SAVING PEOPLE--THIS IS IMPORTANT.



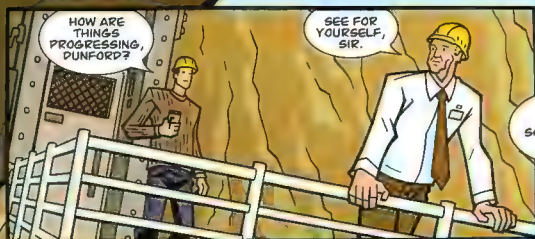
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU?



ENJOYING THIS? YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT I NEVER HAVE TO SLEEP? THAT I CAN RUN AROUND AND SAVE PEOPLE ALL NIGHT LONG AND STILL START MY DAY MORE RESTED AND REFRESHED THAN I EVER HAVE?

WOULDN'T YOU ENJOY THIS?

I'M GOING OVER TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE TO CHECK ON PUNFORD. I'LL BE BACK SOON. WE'LL TALK.



HOW ARE THINGS PROGRESSING, DUNFORD?

SEE FOR YOURSELF, SIR.

WELL-- THAT'S SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?



I'M NOT ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE WITH THIS, SIR.



THE TRANCE THESE WORKERS ARE IN--SO THEY DON'T REMEMBER THIS, IT'S JUST--I KNOW YOUR VAMPIRE FRIEND INSISTS IT WON'T DO THEM ANY HARM BUT IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO ME.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT THESE MEN ARE BEING WELL PAID... THEY THINK THEY'RE BUILDING A MALL--AND WHEN THEY GET STARTED ON THE SHOPPING CENTER WE'RE GOING TO BUILD ABOVE THIS PLACE IT WON'T BE A LIE.



ZECHARIAH ASSURES ME THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY SIDE-EFFECTS.



I FIND IT TROUBLING THAT YOU PUT SO MUCH FAITH IN THIS PERSON YOU HARDLY KNOW.



I'VE SPENT EVERY NIGHT FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS WITH THIS MAN. I KNOW HIM MORE THAN PEOPLE SEEM TO REALIZE, AND STOP GETTING TALKING POINTS FROM MY WIFE. I'M SICK OF HAVING THE SAME ARGUMENTS AGAIN AND AGAIN.



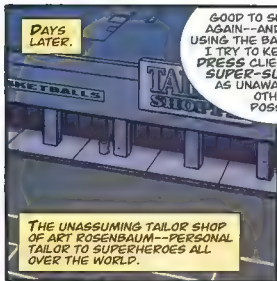
I LIVE TO SERVE.

OH, STOP THAT.

THE NEXT NIGHT.







GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN--AND THANKS FOR USING THE BACK ENTRANCE-- I TRY TO KEEP MY PROM DRESS CLIENTELE AND THE SUPER-SUIT CLIENTELE AS UNAWARE OF EACH OTHER AS POSSIBLE.



YOU DO PROM DRESSES, TOO?

SCREWED THAT UP--WELL, ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



IT WORKS.

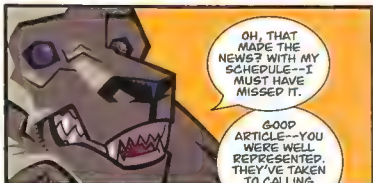
I LIKE IT--DIDN'T THINK I WOULD-- BUT I DO.

AND I AGREE-- THE LITTLE DOMINO MASK DID LOOK SILLY.



GOOD, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT. I DON'T KNOW YOU GUYS--I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME, BUT I WORK PRETTY MUCH ONLY ON REFERRAL ON THIS STUFF. SO I WAS GOING TO TURN DOWN THE JOB.

THEN I SAW YOU ON THE NEWS SAYING THOSE KIDS... FIGURED YOU WERE ON THE LEVEL AFTER THAT.



OH, THAT MADE THE NEWS? WITH MY SCHEDULE--I MUST HAVE MISSED IT.

GOOD ARTICLE--YOU WERE WELL REPRESENTED. THEY'VE TAKEN TO CALLING YOU WOLF-MAN.



OH, GOD--SERIOUSLY? I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.



ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT'S A GREAT NAME. IT REALLY HELPED ME VISUALIZE THIS SUIT--IT'S ICONIC. IT ALSO GOES A LONG WAY TO DEFUSING YOUR THREATENING APPEARANCE--BEING A GIANT WOLF AND ALL.

NO OFFENSE.

WERE IT ME--I WOULD EMBRACE IT.

LATER THAT NIGHT

WHAT DID HE SAY THESE WRIST-THINGS DO EXACTLY?

THEY COLLECT AND STORE MOONLIGHT. THEY SHOULD ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN IN WOLF-FORM FOR A SHORT DURATION OF TIME IF YOU'RE EVER CAUGHT IN THE DAYLIGHT.

SOMETHING I SUGGESTED, DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE ABLE TO WORK IT OUT--GUY'S A GENIUS.



INDEED. I'D SAY HE SHOULD BE WORKING FOR NASA-- BUT I JUST SAW WHAT YOU PAID HIM FOR THAT SUIT. HE MADE THE RIGHT CAREER CHOICE.

WELL, GARY-- TONIGHT MARKS THE COSTUMED DEBUT OF WOLF-MAN. THIS IS A BIG NIGHT FOR YOU--YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE WE FIRST MET.

HE INVENTED THAT? CALLING THAT MAN A TAILOR SEEMS LIKE A BIT OF AN UNDER-STATEMENT.

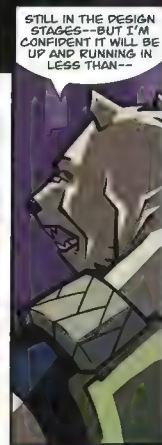
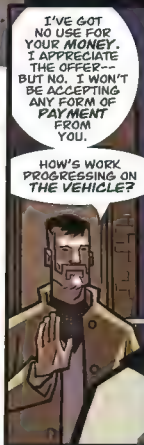
AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT, ZECHARIAH. I'D STILL BE TRYING TO FIGURE THIS STUFF OUT IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU.

WE STILL NEED TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF PAYMENT. I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT THAT.

I'VE GOT NO USE FOR YOUR MONEY. I APPRECIATE THE OFFER-- BUT NO. I WON'T BE ACCEPTING ANY FORM OF PAYMENT FROM YOU.

HOW'S WORK PROGRESSING ON THE VEHICLE?

STILL IN THE DESIGN STAGES--BUT I'M CONFIDENT IT WILL BE UP AND RUNNING IN LESS THAN--



LOOKS LIKE THEY COULD USE SOME HELP.

YEAH.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

GET TO IT.



OKAY
ACTINGEES--
THERE'S TOO
MUCH AT STAKE
HERE--DON'T
GIVE THEM AN
INCH!

WE CAN
DO THIS--
YOU KNOW
WE CAN!

NOW
FIGHT!

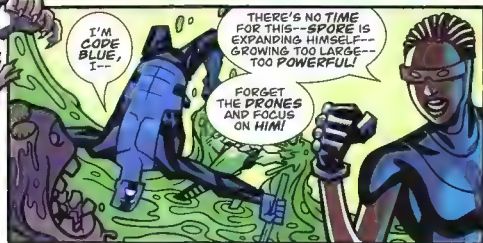
YOU'RE
KIDDING
YOURSELF,
KINETIC!

YOUR
PITIFUL TEAM
HAS NO HOPE
OF DEFEATING
ME!

KIDDING
YOURSELF.

KIDDING
YOURSELF.

KIDDING
YOURSELF.



HA-TOO!!!



HA! HA!
HA!

IT'LL
TAKE MORE
THAN THAT,
FOOL!

MORE
THAN
THAT

MORE
THAN
THAT.

MORE
THAN
THAT

MORE
THAN
THAT.

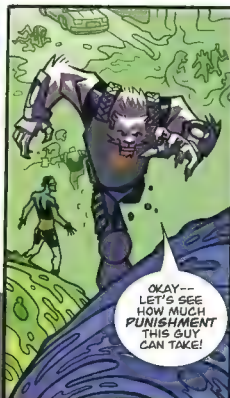
YEEAAGGHH!!





MINOTAUR!
GET THOSE
THINGS OFF
SERGEANT
SUPERIOR!

THE REST
OF YOU--LET'S
TAKE THIS
MONSTER
DOWN!

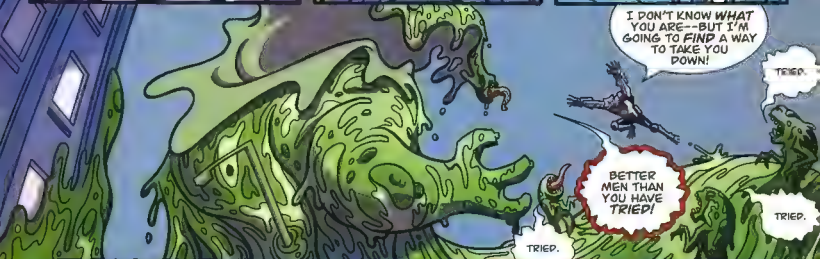


OKAY--
LET'S SEE
HOW MUCH
PUNISHMENT
THIS GUY
CAN TAKE!



WHERE'D
THAT GUY
COME
FROM?

WHO
CARES--WE
CAN USE ALL
THE HELP
WE CAN
GET!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE--BUT I'M
GOING TO FIND A WAY
TO TAKE YOU
DOWN!

TRIED.

BETTER
MEN THAN
YOU HAVE
TRIED!

TRIED.

TRIED.



DO I
LOOK LIKE
A MAN TO
YOU?!

SHRIK!



WHAT
DO YOU
HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH
HERE?! I
CAN'T FEEL
PAIN!



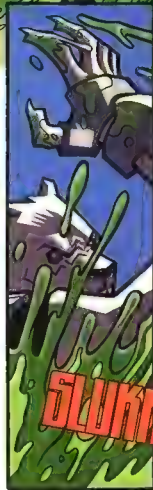
FEEL
PAIN.

FEEL
PAIN.

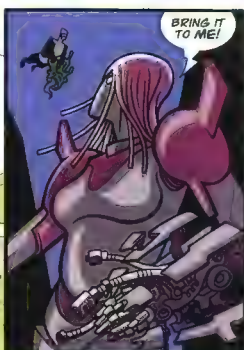
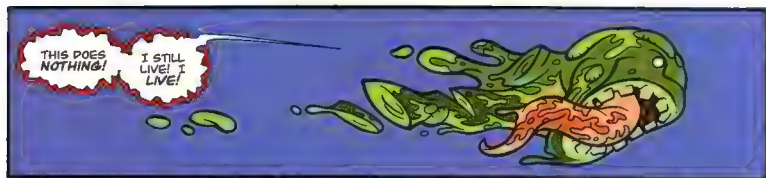
SWOOSH!



NEW
GUY'S
KICKING
ASS.



SLURK!





WE
DIDN'T
DO IT
ALONE.

YEAH--
NICE WORK
THERE,
FURBALL.

FURBALL?

I DIDN'T
IMAGINE
THE GIANT
WEREWOLF GUY
WHO HELPED
US DEFEAT
SPORE, DID
I?

NO--I SAW
HIM, TOO. DUDE
MUST HAVE
CUT OUT.

WEIRD.

WHATEVER--LET'S
GO PUT THIS JERK
ON ICE BEFORE
SOMEONE MAKES
US CLEAN UP THIS
MESS.

NOT FEELING
SOCIAL
TONIGHT?

COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING
TO SAY TO THEM--THOUGHT IT'D
BE BEST TO SLIP AWAY. I DON'T
KNOW IF I'M SO INSECURE
BECAUSE I'M SO NEW AT THIS
OR WHAT--BUT I'M WORRIED
SOMEONE'S GOING TO ATTACK
ME JUST BECAUSE OF
THE WAY I
LOOK.

WHY
DO YOU
THINK I DIDN'T
GO DOWN
THERE?

WAS
GOING TO
ASK THAT
MYSELF.

I'M AN
OLD MAN
AND I ABHOR
VIOLENCE--
AND VAMPIRES
AREN'T USUALLY
TREATED VERY
WARMLY.

FAIR
ENOUGH.

THINK
I MIGHT
CUT OUT EARLY
TONIGHT. IF MY
WIFE WAKES UP
NEXT TO ME THIS
MORNING I MIGHT
NOT BE IN THE
DOGHOUSE FOR
AT LEAST ONE
DAY.

THE NEXT NIGHT.

GOODNIGHT,
CHLOE.

GOODNIGHT,
DAD.

REBECCA--HAS
CHLOE SAID ANYTHING
TO YOU ABOUT HAVING
A BOYFRIEND? I
THINK SHE MIGHT HAVE
A BOYFRIEND.

MAKES
ME A LITTLE
WORRIED.

REBECCA?

I'LL BE
OUT IN A
MINUTE.

WELL--
COME OUT AND
GIVE ME A KISS.
I'VE GOT TO
GET TO MY
NIGHT JOB.

DO YOU
REALLY
NEED TO GO
SO SOON?

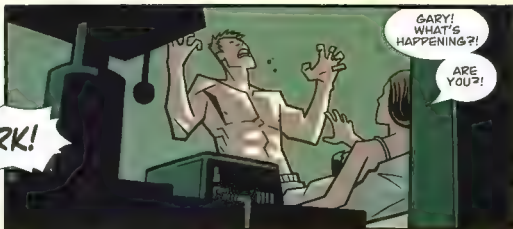
I--UH--
ZECHARIAH
CAN WAIT
A BIT
TONIGHT.

COME
HERE.



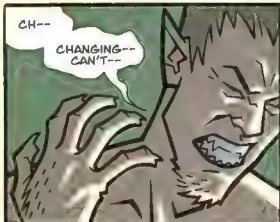


IRK!



GARY!
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

ARE
YOU?!



CH--

CHANGING--
CAN'T--



I THOUGHT
YOU COULD
CONTROL
IT NOW!

IS
THERE
ANYTHING
I CAN--

GRRACK!!

GRRR.

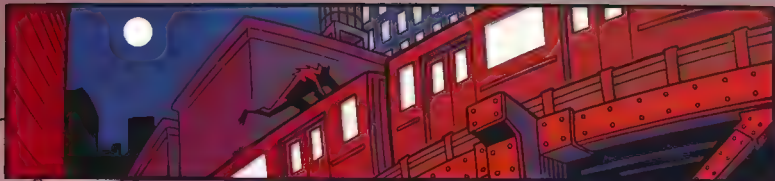


AAIEEE!!!

GARRRGH!!



THOOOM!!!





BOO! GAK!

GRARR!!

HUAACK?!!

THE ASTOUNDING

3

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image

WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN

writer

JASON HOWARD

penciler, inker, colorist

RUS WOOTON

letterer

created by **ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD**

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12

VROOM!!





WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

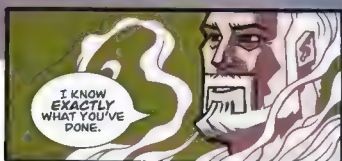


TWO WEEKS?!

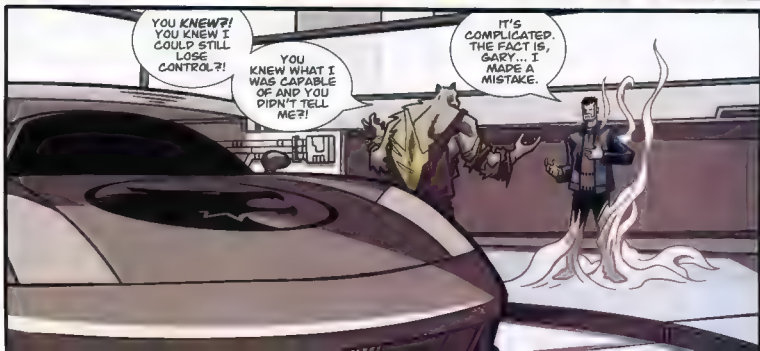
YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR TWO WEEKS!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE DONE?!



I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE DONE.



YOU KNEW?!

YOU KNEW I COULD STILL LOSE CONTROL?!

YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?!

IT'S COMPLICATED. THE FACT IS, GARY... I MADE A MISTAKE.

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS. I WANTED YOU TO EXPERIENCE IT--THE RAGE, THE FREEDOM, THE FEELING OF BEING OUT OF CONTROL.

I WANTED YOU TO RESPECT IT.

IF I JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT IT-- I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT SERIOUSLY. THE POWER YOU HAVE-- HOW DANGEROUS IT IS... YOU NEEDED TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRST HAND.

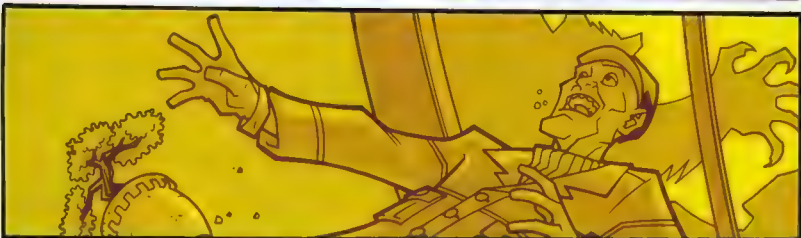
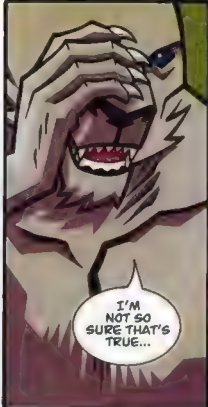


I THOUGHT YOU'D STAY ON YOUR PROPERTY--RUN THROUGH THE WOODS, HUNT... I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HURT ANYBODY. YOU RETAIN A BIT OF YOURSELF EVEN IN THAT STATE--YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE HURT REBECCA OR CHLOE. I KNEW THEY WERE SAFE.

YOU HAD NEVER KILLED BEFORE...



I'M NOT SO SURE THAT'S TRUE...



AT FIRST IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A DREAM. I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A HAZY RECOLLECTION OF THE NIGHT BEFORE. RUNNING ACROSS ROOFTOPS, LEAPING, FALLING.

I ENCOUNTERED A MAN, TENDING A ROOFTOP GARDEN.

...

ONCE I STARTED TRAINING WITH YOU-- AND AFTER THAT NIGHT AT MY HOUSE, RIGHT BEFORE YOU CAME, I STARTED TO REALIZE... THOSE THINGS... THEY PROBABLY HAPPENED. THAT DREAM WAS PROBABLY REAL.

I HAD TRIED TO CONVINCE MYSELF IT WASN'T. AFTER WHAT I DID TO SERGEANT SUPERIOR... I KNEW I WAS JUST FOOLING MYSELF.



YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR TRANSFORMATIONS... YOU CAN BE WOLF-MAN AT NIGHT, EVERYTHING I TAUGHT YOU STILL APPLIES.

BUT ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, YOU WILL LOSE ALL CONTROL AND REVERT BACK TO THE BEAST--THE CURSE WILL TAKE HOLD OF YOU AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP THIS.

I KNOW IT PROVIDES LITTLE COMFORT BUT YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER YOU DO IN THIS STATE. YOU ARE OUT OF CONTROL--YOU ARE YOU, BUT NOT... YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, A WILD BEAST.

I MADE A MISTAKE.

SERGEANT SUPERIOR'S DEATH-- IF ANYTHING, THE BLAME FALLS ON ME. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU--I SHOULD HAVE LOCKED YOU UP SOMEWHERE, CONTAINED YOU... BUT I DIDN'T.





HOW IS IT YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THIS STUFF? YOU'RE A VAMPIRE, NOT A WEREWOLF.



I'VE BEEN AROUND. YOU PICK THINGS UP AFTER A WHILE.

GO AHEAD, GUESS. HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM?



I DON'T KNOW... WHAT, A THOUSAND?



UGH--FRIGGIN' DRACULA. EVER SINCE THAT BOOK WAS PUBLISHED EVERY VAMPIRE AND THEIR BROTHER WANTS TO SELL THEIR STORY--GET FAMOUS.

I USED TO GET GUESSES LIKE "FORTY-FIVE" OR UGH--SIXTY. NOW THERE'S NO MYSTERY. SURE MOST PEOPLE THINK WE'RE NOT REAL BUT THE SECOND THEY DO FIND OUT THEY ALREADY KNOW THE DEAL... FOR THE MOST PART.



ALTHOUGH, I MUST ADMIT, I DO LIKE HOW CURRENT WRITERS HAVE DEEMED THE MYTHOLOGY TOO SILLY. THERE'S NO TURNING INTO BATS, OR MIST... AND CUTTING THE HEAD OFF INSTEAD OF A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART...

I BET I COULD SURVIVE GETTING MY HEAD CUT OFF. I'M JUST TOO SCARED TO TRY.



I KILLED A MAN, ZECHARIAH.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



LATER THAT NIGHT.

WELL, HOW DID IT GO AT THE MEETING TODAY? YOU WERE SO NERVOUS BEFORE YOU WENT IN AND YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD ABOUT IT SINCE YOU GOT BACK.

GLAD YOU SHAVED.



IT DIDN'T GO WELL.

OH, IT'LL BE FINE. YOU BUILT THAT COMPANY FROM THE GROUND UP. YOU ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO WORK THINGS OUT.

STILL, THOUGH--WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? A LAST MINUTE MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS? IF THEY DIDN'T GIVE YOU A RAISE--I'M WORRIED.

REBECCA, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.



I...

I LOVE YOU.

YEAH... I LOVE YOU, TOO.

IS THAT IT? IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME? I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A ROUGH TIME--WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT WORK.

ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY?

WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.

I PROMISE.



THE NEXT NIGHT.

VRROOOM!!!

OKAY, FROM WHAT I CAN DECIPHER FROM THE POLICE BAND-- THIS GUY, **THRILL KILL**, TOOK A HOSTAGE AFTER THE COPS SHOWED UP. THEY WERE IN PURSUIT BUT HE TOOK TO THE ROOFTOPS AND THEY JUST LOST HIM.

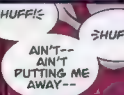
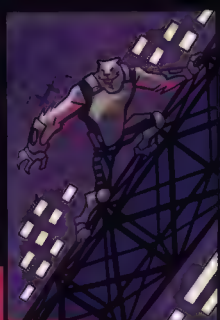
HE'S STILL IN THIS AREA-- GOTTA BE. YOU READY BACK THERE?

AS I'LL EVER BE.

FIRE.

TEK.

FOOM!!!





YOU MIGHT WANT TO RETHINK YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS THERE, PAL--'CAUSE I'M OBLIGED TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.

ANEEEEEE!!



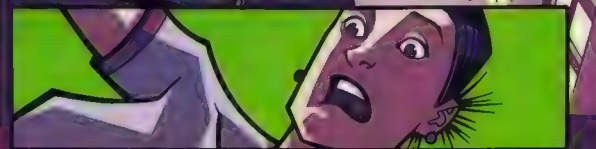
DON'T...

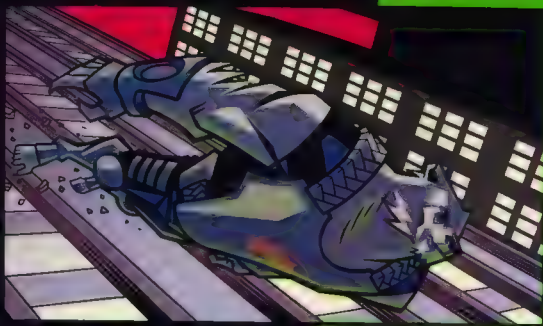


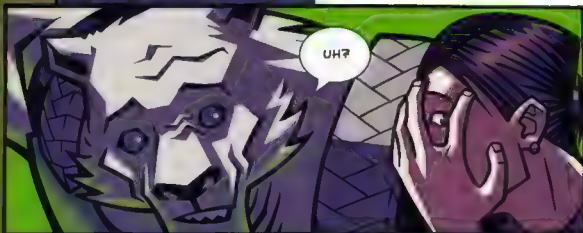
NO, THIS IS FINE. I DROP HER, THEN YOU'LL SAVE HER. SHE'LL BE OKAY--BUT YOU GOTTA LET ME GO IN ORDER TO SAVE HER. IT'LL BE GREAT.



YOU'LL SEE.





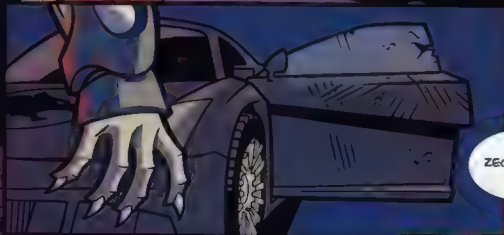
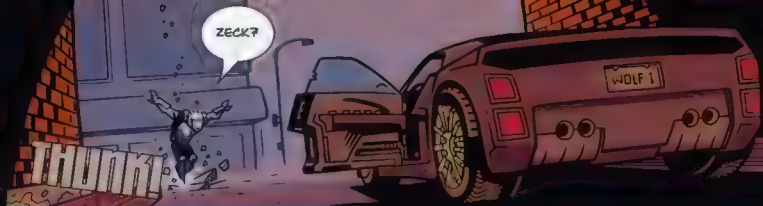


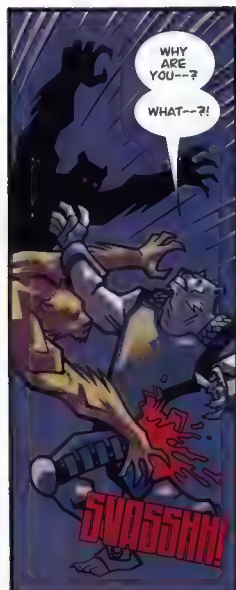
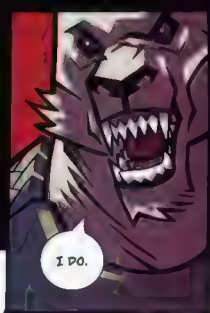
THANK YOU!

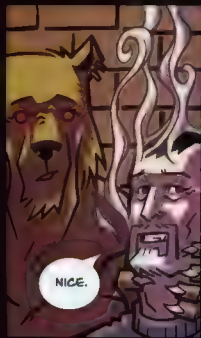
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!







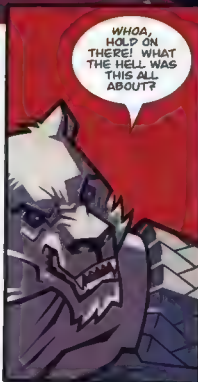




YOU SURE WAITED LONG ENOUGH TO GO INTO MIST FORM. WE COULD HAVE JUST RUN AT ANY TIME.

I TRY TO KEEP THAT ABILITY A SECRET IF I CAN HELP IT. I PREFER PEOPLE TO NOT EXPECT IT.

SUN WILL BE UP SOON... I NEED TO BE GETTING BACK TO MY HOLE. CAN YOU GET THE CAR BACK ON YOUR OWN? SORRY ABOUT THE DOOR.



WHOA, HOLD ON THERE! WHAT THE HELL WAS THIS ALL ABOUT?



THEY'VE BEEN AFTER ME FOR A WHILE--I'M SURPRISED IT TOOK THEM THIS LONG TO CATCH UP TO ME HERE.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW.



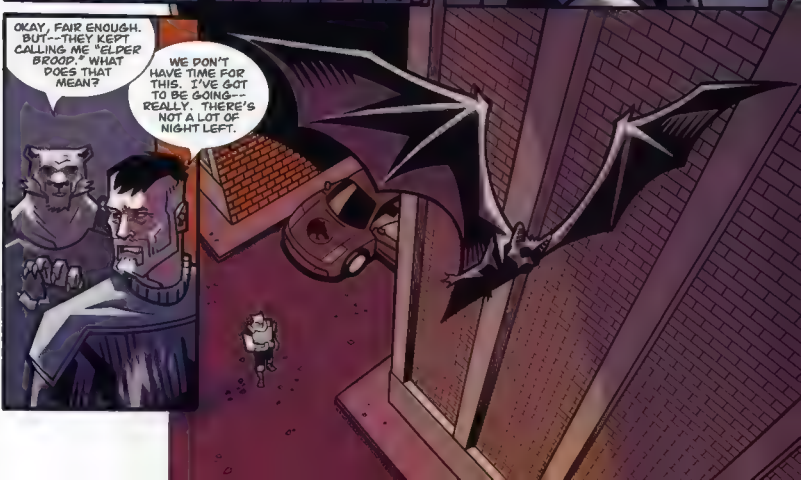
WAIT--WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU? WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM?

LOOK, WE'VE BOTH DONE THINGS IN THE PAST THAT WE'RE NOT PROUD OF. OKAY? CAN I JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?



OKAY, FAIR ENOUGH. BUT--THEY KEPT CALLING ME "ELDER BROOD." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. I'VE GOT TO BE GOING--REALLY. THERE'S NOT A LOT OF NIGHT LEFT.



HOURS LATER, BACK AT
THE HAMPTON ESTATE.

CHLOE
AT SCHOOL
ALREADY?

YEAH,
OR ON HER
WAY AT LEAST.
YOU CAN SPEAK
FREELY IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE
ASKING. I GAVE
MARIA THE
DAY OFF.

WE MAY
NEED TO
LET MARIA
GO.

WHAT?

I WAS CUT LAST
NIGHT--PRETTY
BAD AND IT HEALED
UP WHEN I
REVERTED FROM
WOLF-FORM.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN WE
NEED TO LET MARIA
GO? YOU'VE BEEN
ACTING WEIRD
FOR WEEKS
NOW, GARY.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

A LOT
OF THINGS
ACTUALLY.
I...

WE
REALLY
NEED TO
TALK.

OH,
GOD.

AT THE MEETING THE
OTHER DAY... WITH THE
BOARD, THEY DECIDED
I WAS A LIGHTNING
ROD FOR BAD PRESS--
THAT I WAS HURTING
THE COMPANY.

AFTER THE MEDIA
CIRCUS THAT MY
COMA BECAME COST
US THE DEAL WITH
ASIA... I CAN'T
REALLY BLAME
THEM.

THEY
VOTED ME
OUT OF THE
COMPANY.

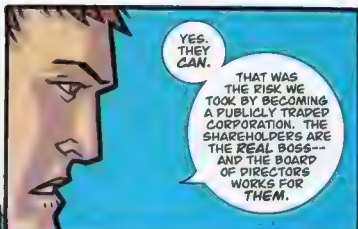
WHAT?!

SGT. AWOL? BOOM!



IT WAS YOUR COMPANY! YOU BUILT IT FROM THE GROUND UP! YOU!

CAN THEY EVEN DO THAT?



YES. THEY CAN.

THAT WAS THE RISK WE TOOK BY BECOMING A PUBLICLY TRADED CORPORATION. THE SHAREHOLDERS ARE THE REAL BOSS-- AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKS FOR THEM.



IT'S OKAY, THOUGH. I GOT A GENEROUS SEVERANCE PACKAGE WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.



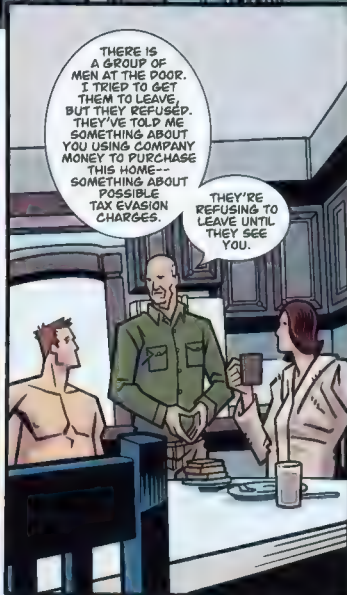
STILL, IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA TO TIGHTEN THE BELT A LITTLE UNTIL I GET BACK ON MY FEET. MARIA WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING A NEW JOB--AND WE CAN COOK AND CLEAN FOR OURSELVES FOR A WHILE.

YEAH, NO PROBLEM. I'LL MISS HER BUT-- WE'LL BE FINE. ARE YOU SURE WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE?



YES. OF COURSE WE WILL.

UM, SIR?



THERE IS A GROUP OF MEN AT THE DOOR. I TRIED TO GET THEM TO LEAVE, BUT THEY REFUSED. THEY'VE TOLD ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOU USING COMPANY MONEY TO PURCHASE THIS HOME-- SOMETHING ABOUT POSSIBLE TAX EVASION CHARGES.

THEY'RE REFUSING TO LEAVE UNTIL THEY SEE YOU.



WHAT? WHY ARE THEY HERE?



THEY SAY
THEY'RE HERE
TO EVICT
YOU, SIR.



EVICT--
YOU MEAN RIGHT
NOW?! THEY'RE
GOING TO KICK US
OUT OF OUR
HOME?!

OH,
GOD--OH,
GOD!



IT'S
FALLING
APART--
IT'S
ALL--

I'M SO
SORRY.

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WOLF-MAN™



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN

writer

JASON HOWARD

penciler, inker, colorist

RUS WOOTON

letterer

created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER



WHAT THE
HECK, MOM?
WHAT ARE
WE DOING
HERE?

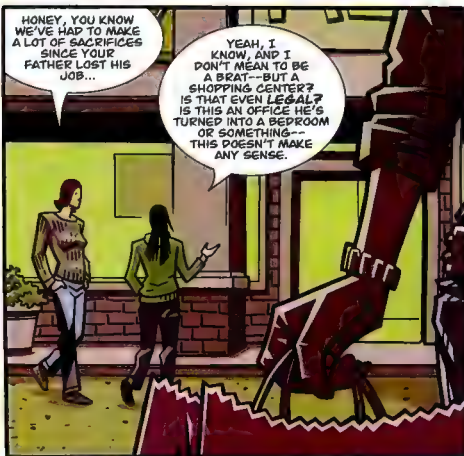
YOU SAID
YOU WERE GOING
TO SHOW ME OUR
NEW PLACE--I DON'T
WANT TO WAIT WHILE
YOU GO SHOPPING--
I WANT TO SEE
IT NOW!

WELL...



YOU'RE JOKING--
RIGHT? YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
JOKING!

YOU KNOW,
THE ONLY THING
MORE HUMILIATING
THAN HAVING TO
RIDE THE BUS IS
GETTING DROPPED
OFF AT A HOTEL, AND
THE ONLY THING WORSE
THAN GETTING DROPPED
OFF AT A HOTEL IS
GETTING DROPPED
OFF AT A STUPID
STRIP MALL!



HONEY, YOU KNOW
WE'VE HAD TO MAKE
A LOT OF SACRIFICES
SINCE YOUR
FATHER LOST HIS
JOB...

YEAH, I
KNOW, AND I
DON'T MEAN TO BE
A BRAT--BUT A
SHOPPING CENTER?
IS THAT EVEN LEGAL?
IS THIS AN OFFICE HE'S
TURNED INTO A BEDROOM
OR SOMETHING--
THIS DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE.



THIS PLACE IS A SECRET--
I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL ONCE
WE'RE INSIDE, BUT DON'T
MAKE A SCENE. **PROMISE**
ME YOU WON'T MAKE
A SCENE.



OKAY,
MOM--
OKAY.

SORRY.





WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF FANCY SECRET HOTEL HIDDEN UNDER THE STRIP MALL?

IT'S NEAT... IT'S TOTALLY NEAT. I MEAN, ONCE I TAKE SOME FRIENDS HERE I MIGHT NOT EVEN GET MADE FUN OF FOR LIVING UNDER THE GAP.

I HOPE THE ROOMS ARE THIS COOL.





CALM DOWN, GIRL...
IT'S ME IN HERE...
YOUR DAD, I'M
NOT GOING TO
HURT YOU.

THERE'S
NOTHING TO
BE SCARED
OF.

DO YOU
REMEMBER MY
ACCIDENT, ON OUR
VACATION? I GOT
INFECTED WITH
SOMETHING THAT CAUSED
THIS. HAVE YOU HEARD
ABOUT WOLF-MAN ON
THE NEWS? I'VE BEEN
USING THESE POWERS
TO SAVE LIVES.

CHLOE?



...

I THINK
SHE JUST
NEEDS A
MINUTE.

COME WITH
ME, MA'AM...
I'LL SHOW YOU
YOUR ROOM.



I THINK
WE'LL WAIT TO
INTRODUCE
ZECHARIAH.

THAT'S
PROBABLY
BEST.



WELL, HE'S PROBABLY
WAITING ON ME. I'LL
BE BACK IN THE
MORNING.

BE
CAREFUL.

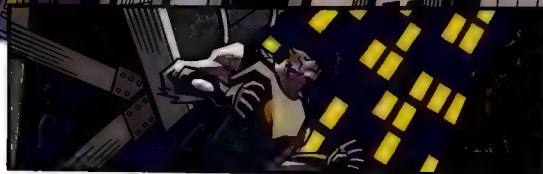
LATER
THAT
NIGHT.

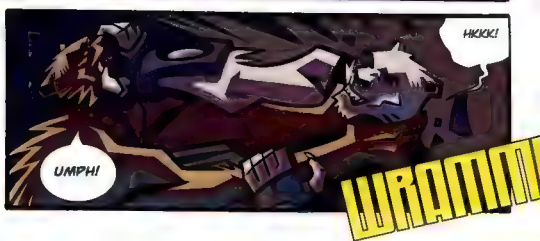
IT'S BEEN
A QUIET NIGHT--
THAT'S FOR SURE.
I'M NOT HEARING A
THING UP HERE.
KEEP AN EAR OUT ON
THE POLICE BAND.
IF YOU HEAR
SOMETHING, LET
ME KNOW.

I'D KIND
OF LIKE TO
STAY OUT
OF THE CAR
TONIGHT.

UNDERSTOOD.

I'LL LET
YOU KNOW IF
ANYTHING
COMES UP.





UNGH.

CRACK!

I DIDN'T WANT TO... I COULDN'T HELP IT, HE WOULDN'T STOP. I DIDN'T MEAN--

YOU ARE VERY POWERFUL, ELDER BROOD-- BUT YOU HAVE YET TO REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.

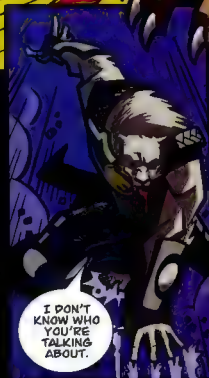
THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIGHT ALL OF US OFF, DISPATCHING US INSTANTLY, WITH VERY LITTLE EFFORT.

BUT THAT TIME IS NOT TONIGHT. CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

I SEE YOUR FRIEND ZECHARIAH IS KEEPING SOME VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOU.

YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE.

WHAT IS "ELDER BROOD"? WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT?



I DON'T
KNOW WHO
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.



YOU
PROTECT
HIM.

DISGRACEFUL.



WHUDD!



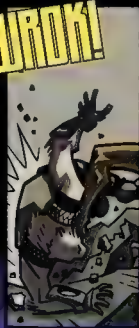
SWASHH!



ONE DAY YOUR POWERS
WILL BE SUCH THAT YOU'D
NEVER SUCCEMB TO SUCH
A BEATING... AND WHEN
THAT DAY COMES,
I MAY REGRET
THIS...

...BUT RIGHT
NOW, THERE ARE
MORE PRESSING
CONCERNS AT
HAND.

WROKK!



SHLOKK!



WUDD!



KROKK!

SKOKK!



WHERE IS HE?

WHERE--?

...

IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT HE'D DONE... WHAT HE IS CAPABLE OF, YOU WOULDN'T PROTECT HIM--YOU'D KILL HIM FOR ME.

WHAT--?

WHAT DID HE DO?





GET
AWAY FROM
HIM!

NOW!



CHANGE
BACK.

GO TO
HUMAN
FORM--
NOW.

I CAN'T--
THEY'LL
KILL ME.

I'M
HERE TO
PROTECT
YOU--DO
IT NOW!



OKAY--
NOW
WHAT?

CHANGE
BACK--
QUICK!



YOU WERE A FOOL
TO SHOW YOURSELF,
ZECHARIAH. YOU'LL
NEVER MAKE IT
OUT OF HERE
ALIVE.

REGENERATING
TAKES A LOT OF
ENERGY... YOU'LL
BE BACK UP TO
FULL STRENGTH IN
A MINUTE OR TWO--
WE'LL JUST HAVE
TO MAKE SURE
YOU SURVIVE
THAT LONG.

MY HEAD--
I'M SO
DISORIENTED--
WEAK.



SUCH A GRAND
ENTRANCE, AND JUST IN
TIME, TOO. HOW CONVENIENT.
JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT
TO TELL YOUR NEW FRIEND
EXACTLY WHAT A
MONSTER YOU
REALLY ARE.

QUIET!

MURDERER!



WHAT IS IT,
ZECHARIAH?
WHAT IS IT
THEY SAY
YOU'VE
DONE?

WHAT I
DID, IT WAS...
IT WASN'T MY
FAULT,
I--



A LIAR ON TOP
OF EVERYTHING
ELSE, ZECHARIAH?
REALLY?

YOU
MAKE ME
WANT TO
PUKE!



YOUR FRIEND IS A
VAMPIRE, ELDER-
BROOD. I'M SURE YOU
KNOW WHAT COMES
WITH THAT... THE
THIRST. I'M SURE
HE DOESN'T BRING
IT UP MUCH.

IT DRIVES
HIS EVERY MOVE...
HIS EVERY THOUGHT
AND ACTION IS
INFLUENCED BY HIS
THIRST FOR
BLOOD.

THE MORE
POWERFUL THE
CREATURE--THE
LONGER THE BLOOD
WILL SUSTAIN
HIS UNDEAD
BODY.

THE BLOOD
OF A WEREWOLF, IF
ENOUGH OF IT IS
CONSUMED, WILL SUSTAIN
HIM FOR MONTHS. THE
ONLY PROBLEM IS, MOST
WEREWOLVES WORK IN
PACKS-- AND DRAINING
THEIR BLOOD IS NEXT
TO IMPOSSIBLE.



BUT IF YOU CAN FIND A
WEREWOLF CHILD...
SOMETHING HELPLESS
AND WEAK, NOT OLD
ENOUGH TO FIGHT
ANYTHING OFF...

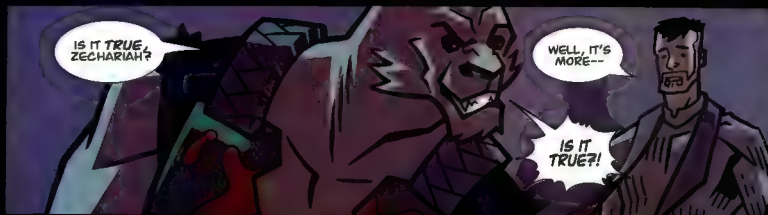
...SOMETHING
LIKE MY BABY
GIRL!

STILL ONLY
A CHILD WHEN
LAID TO REST...
KILLED AT THE
HANDS OF THIS
MONSTER!



I--

OH,
GOD...



IS IT TRUE,
ZECHARIAH?

WELL, IT'S
MORE--

IS IT
TRUE?!

IT'S TRUE,
I DID IT... BUT
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE,
GARY, YOU SHOULD
UNDERSTAND WHAT
I'VE GONE THROUGH--
WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO LOSE
CONTROL!

THE THIRST
IS FAR MORE SEVERE
THAN ANY CURSE YOUR
KIND SUFFERS. IT ALMOST
TAKES OVER COMPLETELY,
I SUCCUMB TO AN
UNCONTROLLABLE BLOOD
LUST--I'M LITTLE MORE
THAN A **RABID ANIMAL**
UNTIL I FEED.

MY ACTIONS
WERE NOT MY OWN.
I'VE TRIED TO
EXPLAIN TO THESE
PEOPLE BEFORE--
THEY WERE MY
ALLIES... MY
FRIENDS.



YOU SEE?!
YOU SEE THE
BEAST YOU
CALL YOUR
ALLY FOR WHAT
HE **TRULY**
IS.

THE GIRL,
SHE... SHE WAS
ALREADY SICK.
I MUST
HAVE...

I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER.

A
CHILD?!



YOU
KILLED A
CHILD?!

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO DRINK
SO MUCH. I
WOULD HAVE
NEVER--

QUIET!



WE HAVE BEEN HUNTING
HIM FOR YEARS--UNABLE
TO CATCH UP TO HIM FOR
LONG ENOUGH TO STRIKE.
HE KNOWS WHAT HE
DID... HE KNEW WE
WERE AFTER
HIM.

WHY DO
YOU THINK HE
SOUGHT YOU OUT?
TO HELP YOU? TO
MENTOR YOU?
OR FOR
PROTECTION?

YOU
WOULD MAKE
A VALUABLE
ALLY.



SO THIS
WAS ALL A PLOY
TO TRICK ME INTO
BEING YOUR BODY
GUARD?! ALL
THE ADVICE--ALL
THE HELP?!

DID YOU
WANT MY
BLOOD?!

ANSWER
ME!



I ALLOWED YOU
INTO MY HOME!
YOU WERE THERE--
WITH MY FAMILY!
WITH MY
DAUGHTER!

I
TRUSTED
YOU!



GARY.
PLEASE.
YOU AND I
ARE ALIKE.
WE--





YOU HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING, ELDER BLOOD. HE DID NOT DESERVE ANOTHER BREATH.

WITH ZECHARIAH FINALLY DEAD, WE CAN--



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



I AM TO BRING HIM BACK WITH US--DISPLAY HIM FOR ALL TO SEE. OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS CLOSURE--THEY NEED TO SEE HE'S BEEN PUNISHED.



NO. IT'S MY KILL AND I WILL DISPOSE OF THE BODY. I OWE HIM THAT MUCH FOR MY BETRAYAL.

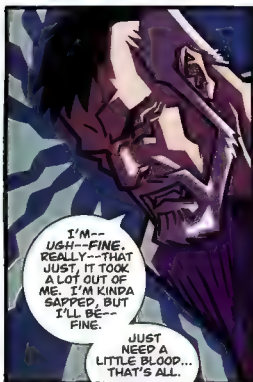
YOUR WORD WILL JUST HAVE TO BE ENOUGH.



THAT IS... ADMIRABLE. VERY WELL. I HAVE NO FURTHER WISH TO FIGHT YOU--SO HE IS YOURS TO DO WITH WHAT YOU WILL.

I AM THE ONE KNOWN AS JACOBSON. MY NAME CARRIES MUCH WEIGHT WITH SOME. YOU HAVE MADE A FRIEND HERE TODAY.

GOOD BYE.





DO I HAVE BLOOD ON
MY HANDS? VERY
MUCH SO... YES, BUT
THOSE PEOPLE
JACOBSON AND HIS
PACK--THEY'RE
HYPOCRITES. I KNOW
THEY'VE DONE THINGS
JUST AS HORRIBLE AND
UNSPEAKABLE AS
ANYTHING I'VE DONE
WHILE UNDER THE
CONTROL OF MY BLOOD
LUST... WHILE
COMPLETELY OUT
OF CONTROL.

THEY LOSE
CONTROL EVERY
MONTH, LIKE YOU--
AND WITHOUT ANYONE
TO TRAIN THEM HOW
TO CONTROL THEIR
POWERS, THEY DID
MUCH MORE DAMAGE
WHILE TEACHING
THEMSELVES.

YOUR KIND
IS NO BETTER THAN
MINE... TRUST ME.
I KNOW OF A TRIBE
IN SOUTH AMERICA
WHO BELIEVES GOD
ENTERS THEIR BODIES
ONCE A MONTH, TAKES
OVER AND PUNISHES
THE WICKED
THROUGH
THEM.



THEY LOOK
FORWARD
TO LOSING
CONTROL.

THEY
ENJOY
IT.



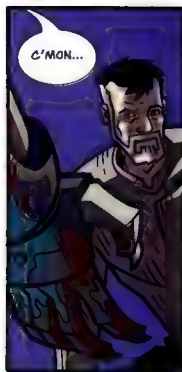
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO PROVE
YOURSELF
TO ME. I--



I KNOW THAT, GARY.
I DO. YOU WEREN'T A
BAD PERSON BEFORE
YOU WERE TURNED
INTO WHAT YOU ARE.
NEITHER WAS I.

AND I DIDN'T
BECOME A BAD
PERSON SIMPLY
BECAUSE I WAS
BITTEN. I AM
WHO I ALWAYS
WAS.

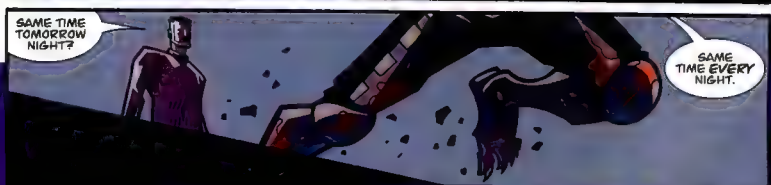
THAT'S
WHAT MAKES
THE THINGS WE
DO... THE THINGS
WE HAVE TO DO...
SO HARD
SOMETIMES.



C'MON...



LET
ME HELP
YOU UP.



ACROSS TOWN.

YOU CAN'T
DO THIS! WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
IS ILLEGAL.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS--
I'VE GOT RIGHTS. IT
WAS A LEGAL PURCHASE
ON MY PART AND I'M
ENTITLED TO
SELL IT.

SHUT
UP.

NOW,
TELL US
HOW YOU
GOT THE
DISK.

IT'S A SURVEILLANCE
DISK--WHERE DO YOU
THINK I GOT IT? I
ACQUIRED IT LEGALLY
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE ASKING.

LOOK,
I'VE HAD OTHER
OFFERS--BUT IF
YOU LET ME GO,
I'LL LOWER THE
PRICE--OKAY?!
YOU WIN--YOU
GOT ME!
OKAY?!

IF YOU'RE
TRYING TO SCARE
ME IT'S NOT GOING
TO WORK. YOU
EITHER PAY MY PRICE,
OR RETURN MY
PROPERTY AND
LET ME GO.

HEY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

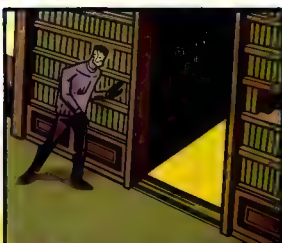
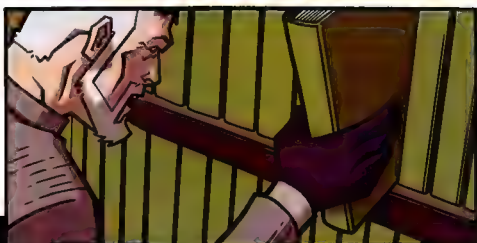
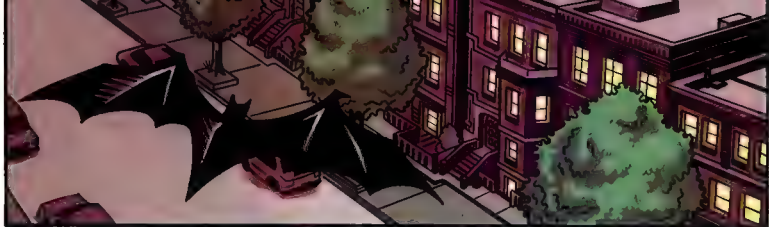
YOU CAN'T
WATCH IT FOR
FREE! WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

THAT'S MY
PROPERTY!
HEY!

CRAP--
IT'S NOT A
FAKE. THIS
LOOKS LIKE
THE REAL
THING. GET
HIM OUT OF
HERE.







ALL RIGHT, PAL... I'M REALLY--I'M SORRY TO DO THIS.

REALLY SORRY--

I WAS SAVING YOU FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION... BUT IF I DON'T GET BLOOD SOON, I COULD ACTUALLY DIE.

AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT-- WOULD YOU?





...SERGEANT
SUPERIOR?

I
THOUGHT
NOT. NOW,
WAKE
UP...

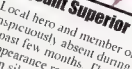
...I
COULD
REALLY
USE A
DRINK.

WEDNESD



IGNITION

ACCIDENT / page



...a member of The Actioneers h...
...the past few months. The time and date of his re...
disappearance remains unknown as the team's rep...
remain silent on the subject. What is known...
the middle of May, the team began to...
Following the arrest of a Kent...
is suspected of masterm...
has always...
secret...

JASON HOWARD

ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

image

5



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
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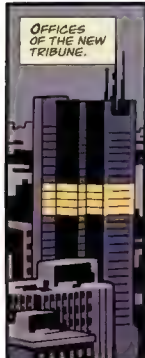
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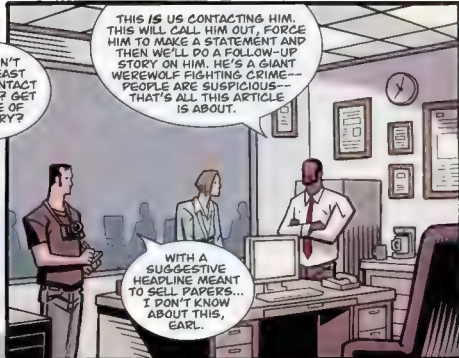




OFFICES OF THE NEW TRIBUNE.

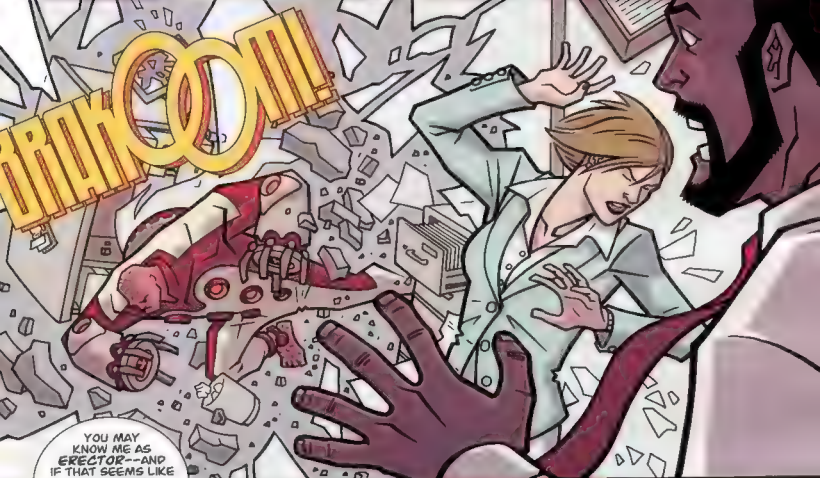


SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST TRY TO CONTACT HIM FIRST? GET HIS SIDE OF THE STORY?



THIS IS US CONTACTING HIM. THIS WILL CALL HIM OUT, FORCE HIM TO MAKE A STATEMENT AND THEN WE'LL DO A FOLLOW-UP STORY ON HIM. HE'S A GIANT WEREWOLF FIGHTING CRIME-- PEOPLE ARE SUSPICIOUS-- THAT'S ALL THIS ARTICLE IS ABOUT.

WITH A SUGGESTIVE HEADLINE MEANT TO SELL PAPERS... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, EARL.



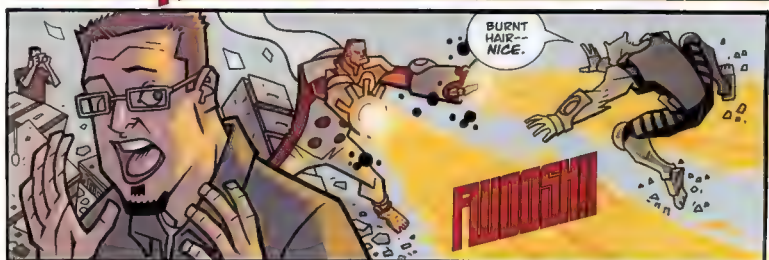
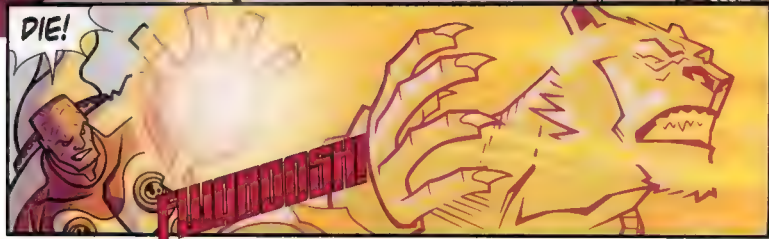
YOU MAY KNOW ME AS ERECTOR--AND IF THAT SEEMS LIKE AN IL-SUITED NAME FOR ME IT'S BECAUSE YOU RETARDS GOT IT WRONG!

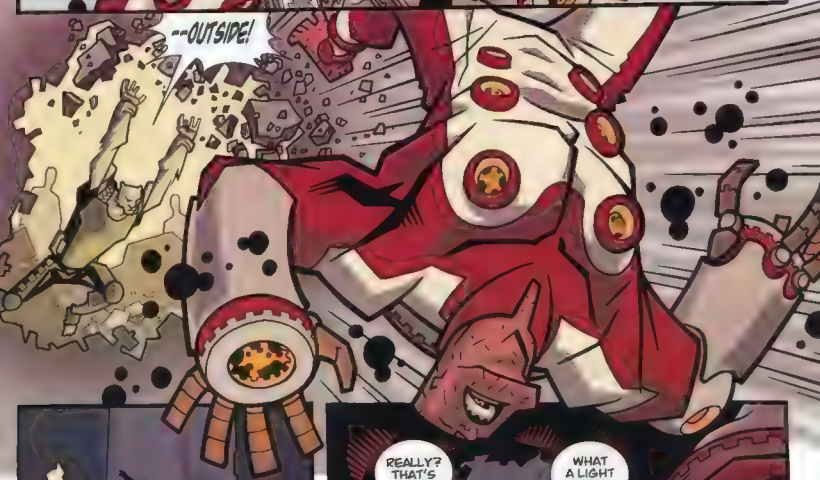
I'M ERUPTOR! YOU GUYS COULDN'T TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK WITH THE POLICE?! MY NAME IS ON FILE--WAS YOUR PROOFREADER OUT SICK?!

I'M A LAUGHING STOCK THANKS TO YOU PEOPLE!

NOW I'M GOING TO WATCH YOU ALL ROAST!









THE NEXT MORNING.

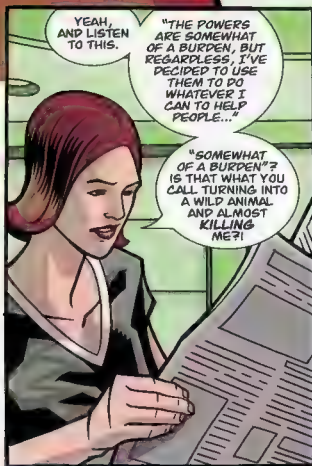
THE WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER.

...AND ABOUT SIX STORIES BELOW.



WELL, YOU'RE THE BELLE OF THE BALL ALL OF A SUDDEN.

OH, YEAH?



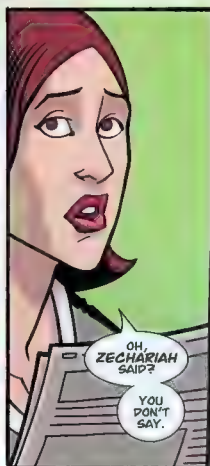
YEAH, AND LISTEN TO THIS.

"THE POWERS ARE SOMEWHAT OF A BURDEN, BUT REGARDLESS, I'VE DECIDED TO USE THEM TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP PEOPLE..."

"SOMEWHAT OF A BURDEN"? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL TURNING INTO A WILD ANIMAL AND ALMOST KILLING ME?!



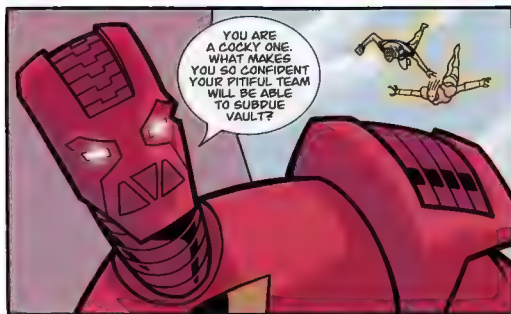
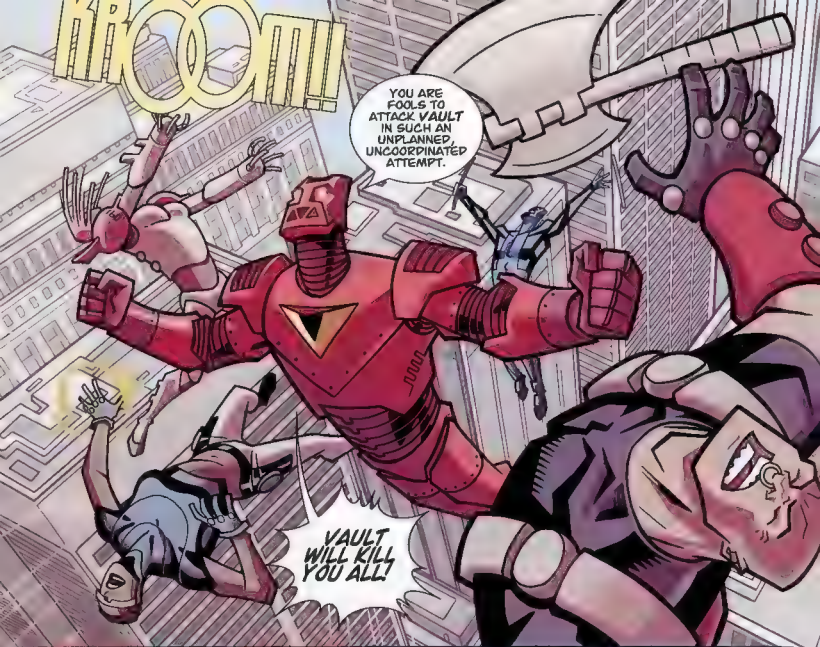
COME ON, REBECCA. YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER HURT YOU IN THAT STATE. ZECHARIAH SAID--

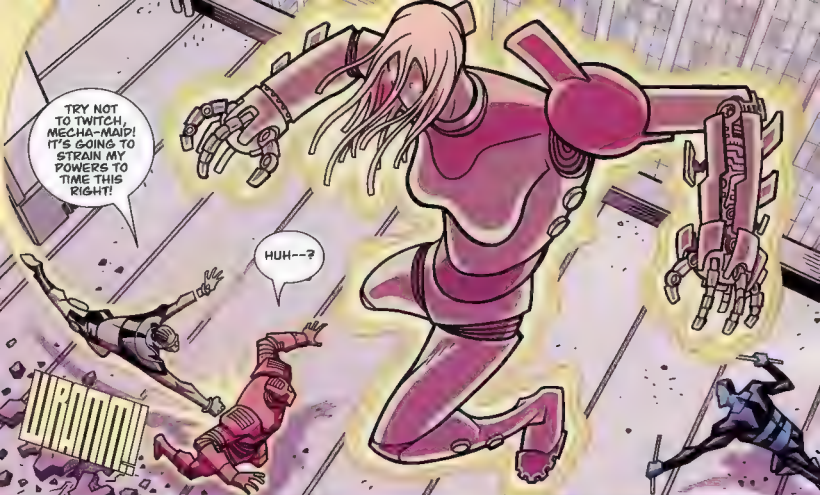


OH, ZECHARIAH SAID?

YOU DON'T SAY.



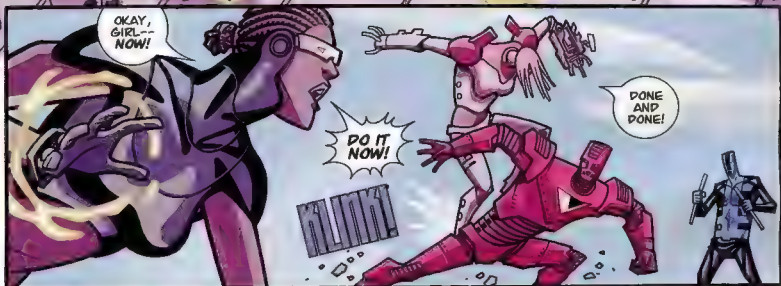




TRY NOT TO TWITCH, MECHA-MAID! IT'S GOING TO STRAIN MY POWERS TO TIME THIS RIGHT!

HUH--?

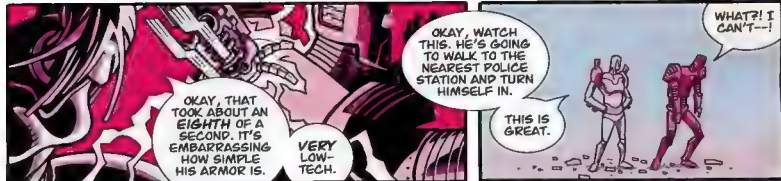
WRAAAA!



OKAY, GIRL-- NOW!

DO IT NOW!

DONE AND DONE!



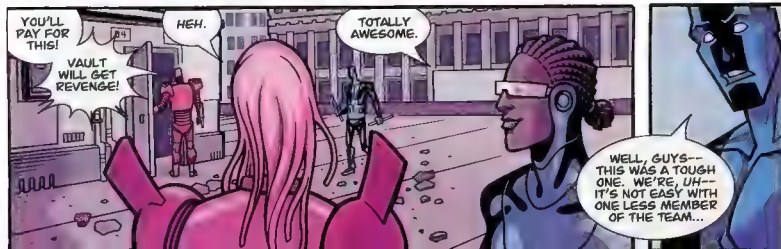
OKAY, THAT TOOK ABOUT AN EIGHTH OF A SECOND. IT'S EMBARRASSING HOW SIMPLE HIS ARMOR IS.

VERY LOW-TECH.

OKAY, WATCH THIS. HE'S GOING TO WALK TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION AND TURN HIMSELF IN.

THIS IS GREAT.

WHAT?! I CAN'T--!



YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

HEH.

TOTALLY AWESOME.

VAULT WILL GET REVENGE!

WELL, GUYS-- THIS WAS A TOUGH ONE. WE'RE, UH-- IT'S NOT EASY WITH ONE LESS MEMBER OF THE TEAM...

WHAT ARE WE DOING--FIGHTING THIS LOSER WHEN WE COULD BE OUT FINDING THE MONSTER WHO KILLED SERGEANT SUPERIOR?!

SEE THAT SUN UP THERE, MINOTAUR?

THERE HAVE BEEN EXACTLY ZERO REPORTS ON WOLF-MAN OPERATING DURING THE DAY. UNLESS YOU KNOW THE HOLE HE'S HIDING IN--WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL NIGHT.

THEN WE RESUME THE HUNT.

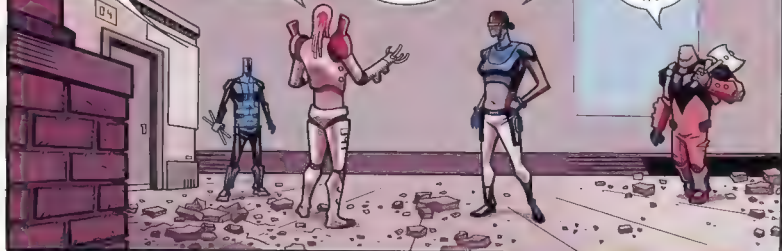
ONLY OPERATING AT NIGHT--YOU THINK HE'S GOT A DAY JOB--OR DO YOU THINK HE REALLY IS A... Y'KNOW.

WEREWOLF?! IT'S CERTAINLY A CONVINCING SUIT BUT I THINK IT'S ALL JUST A SCHTICK. IT'S A GIMMICK. PSYCHO MURDEROUS FREAK--DID ANY OF YOU SEE TODAY'S PAPER?!

I MEAN-- DID YOU SEE THAT?!

I DID.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



I THINK WE SHOULD LEAK THAT TAPE TO THEM--SHOW THEM WHO WOLF-MAN REALLY IS.

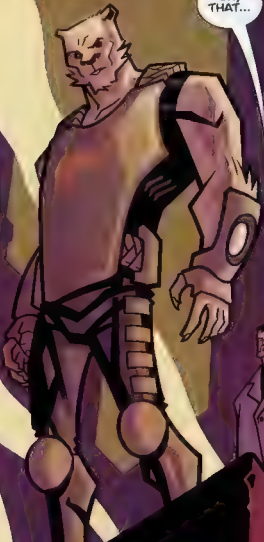
THAT WOULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

NO.

THAT WOULD SEND EVERYONE FROM THE POLICE TO THOSE CLOWNS OVER AT CAPES INCORPORATED, TO POSSIBLY EVEN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE AFTER HIM.

I WANT THIS SON OF A BITCH ALL TO MYSELF.





NOTHING
IN THIS AREA...
THINK YOU COULD
TAKE THE TIME TO
EXPLAIN "ELDER
BROOD" TO ME WHILE
WE CONTINUE OUR
PATROL? IT'S KIND
OF NAGGING
AT ME.

OH,
THAT...





THE ELDERS ARE VERY SELECTIVE WITH THEIR CURSE. SOME SAY THE ELDERS DON'T TURN PEOPLE AT ALL ANY MORE.

WE KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT THEY SEEK OUT THEIR BROOD-- SELECT THEM BASED ON MERIT AND WORTHINESS.

THAT WOULD MEAN YOU WERE CHOSEN.

WHY? FOR WHAT?

WHO KNOWS? IT COULD BE ANYTHING.

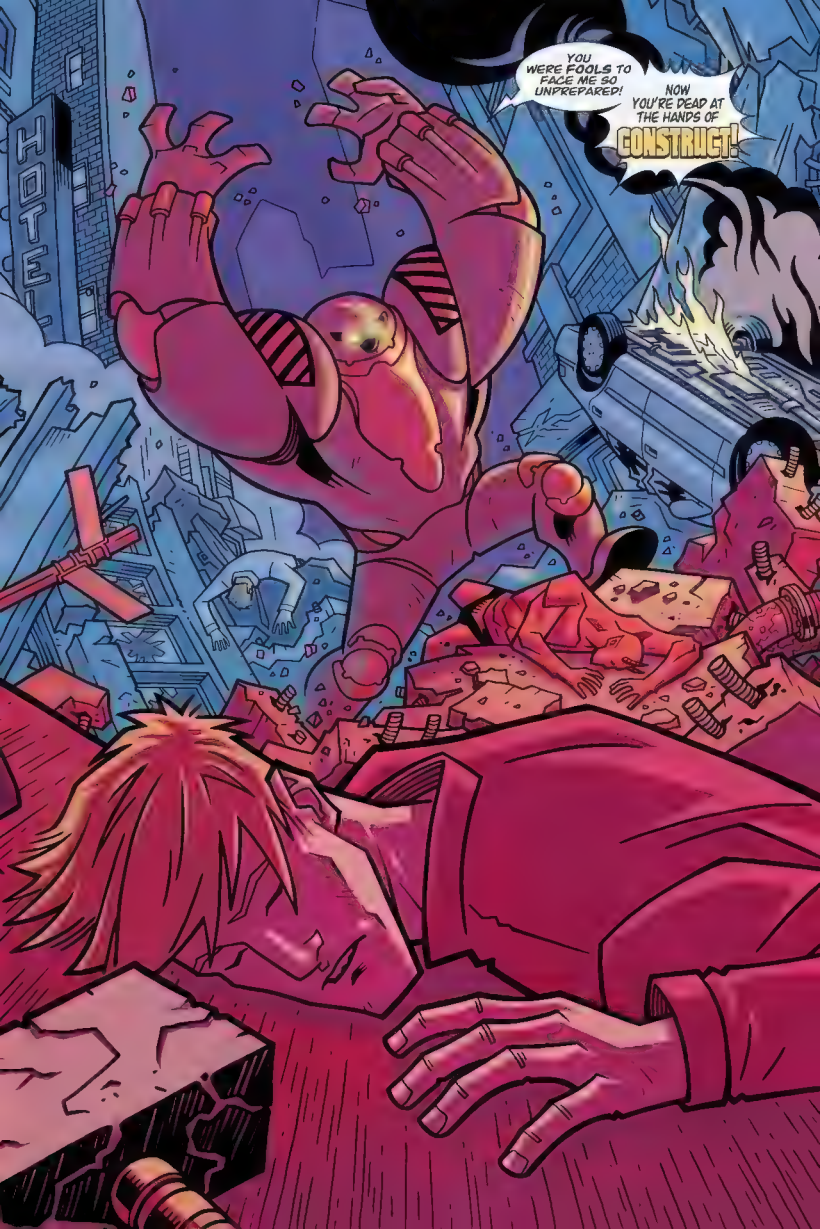
MAYBE THE ELDERS ARE CRAZY-- THEY COULD HAVE PICKED YOU FOR YOUR HAIR COLOR.

OR IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING SPECIFIC--BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS.

YEAH... OF COURSE IT COULD--

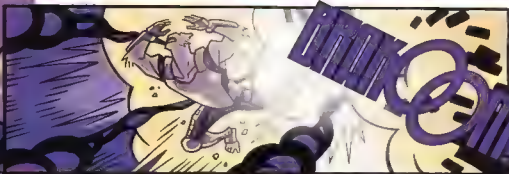
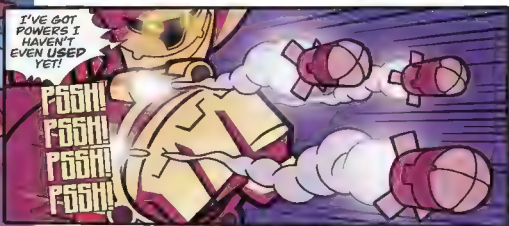
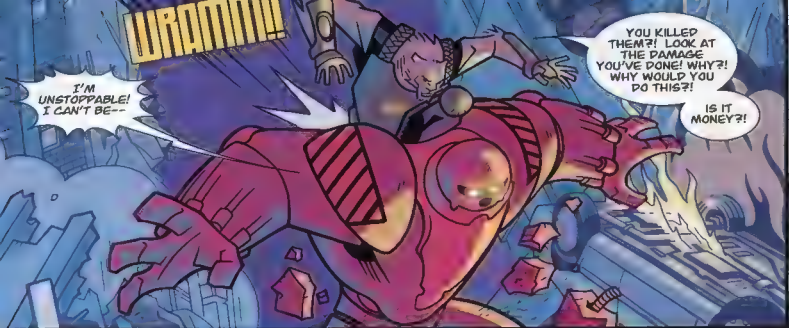
I'M ON IT!

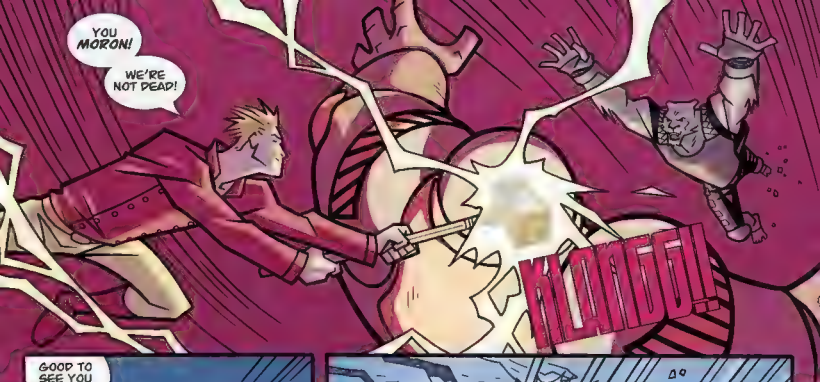




YOU
WERE FOOLS TO
FACE ME SO
UNPREPARED!

NOW
YOU'RE DEAD AT
THE HANDS OF
CONSTRUCT!





YOU MORON!

WE'RE NOT DEAD!

KIDNAP!



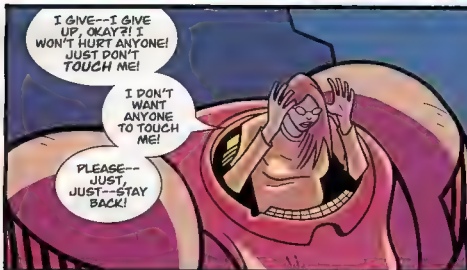
GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS ARE OKAY.

LET'S SEE JUST HOW TOUGH THIS GUY IS--



--ON THE INSIDE!

PUNK!



I GIVE--I GIVE UP, OKAY?! I WON'T HURT ANYONE! JUST DON'T TOUCH ME!

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO TOUCH ME!

PLEASE-- JUST, JUST--STAY BACK!



UH... I GUESS WE CAN HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE, THEN. THANKS FOR THE HELP.



OH, WAIT. I READ ABOUT YOU IN THE NEWSPAPER. SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.

I'M KID THOR, THIS IS RED DEVIL, WE WORK FOR CAPES INCORPORATED. I KNOW THEY'RE LOOKING FOR MORE PEOPLE FOR THE NIGHT SHIFT.

THE PAY IS SUPER DECENT AND THE BENEFITS ARE SOLID.

JUST SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...



OKAY... THANKS.

I'LL DEFINITELY CONSIDER IT.



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT CHLOE. SHE'S NOT... SHE'S NOT ADJUSTING WELL TO ALL THIS.

I KNOW, IT'S A LOT TO ASK OF A GIRL HER AGE. EVERYTHING IS CHANGING FOR HER... THIS IS JUST MORE HEAPED ON TOP OF THE REGULAR TEENAGE CRAP.

I DON'T BLAME HER.

BUT WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? I'M JUST TRYING TO PICK UP THE PIECES AFTER MY COMPANY MUSCLED ME OUT.

THEY'RE STILL INVESTIGATING ME FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.

WELL, HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE HERE? THIS ISN'T NORMAL.

I THINK IF WE LIVED IN A NORMAL HOUSE AGAIN, THAT'D BE SOMETHING.

I KNOW. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE ALL THIS OUT MYSELF.

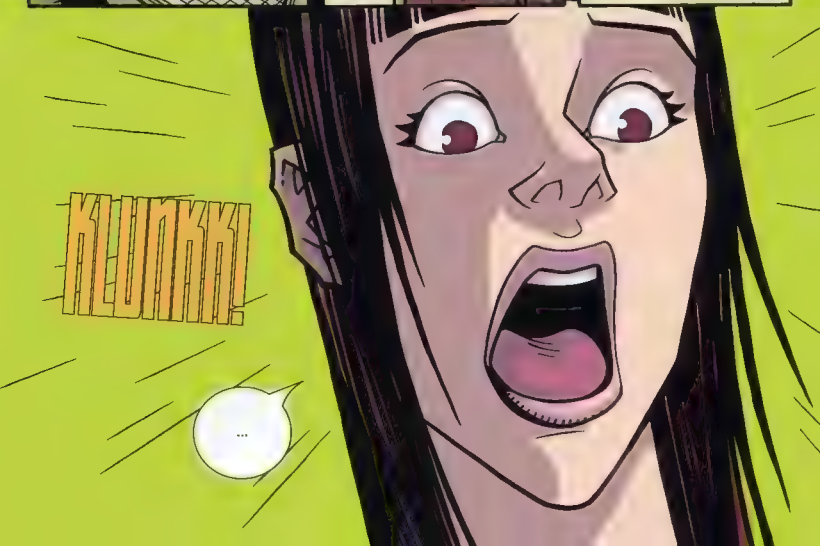
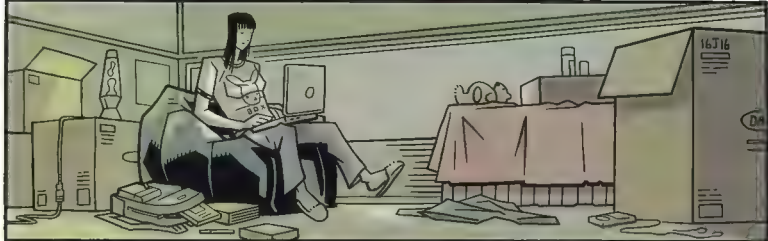
I DID TALK TO SOME PEOPLE LAST NIGHT THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HIRE ME, OR RATHER, WOLF-MAN--IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'D WANT TO DO--BUT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE OPTIONS.

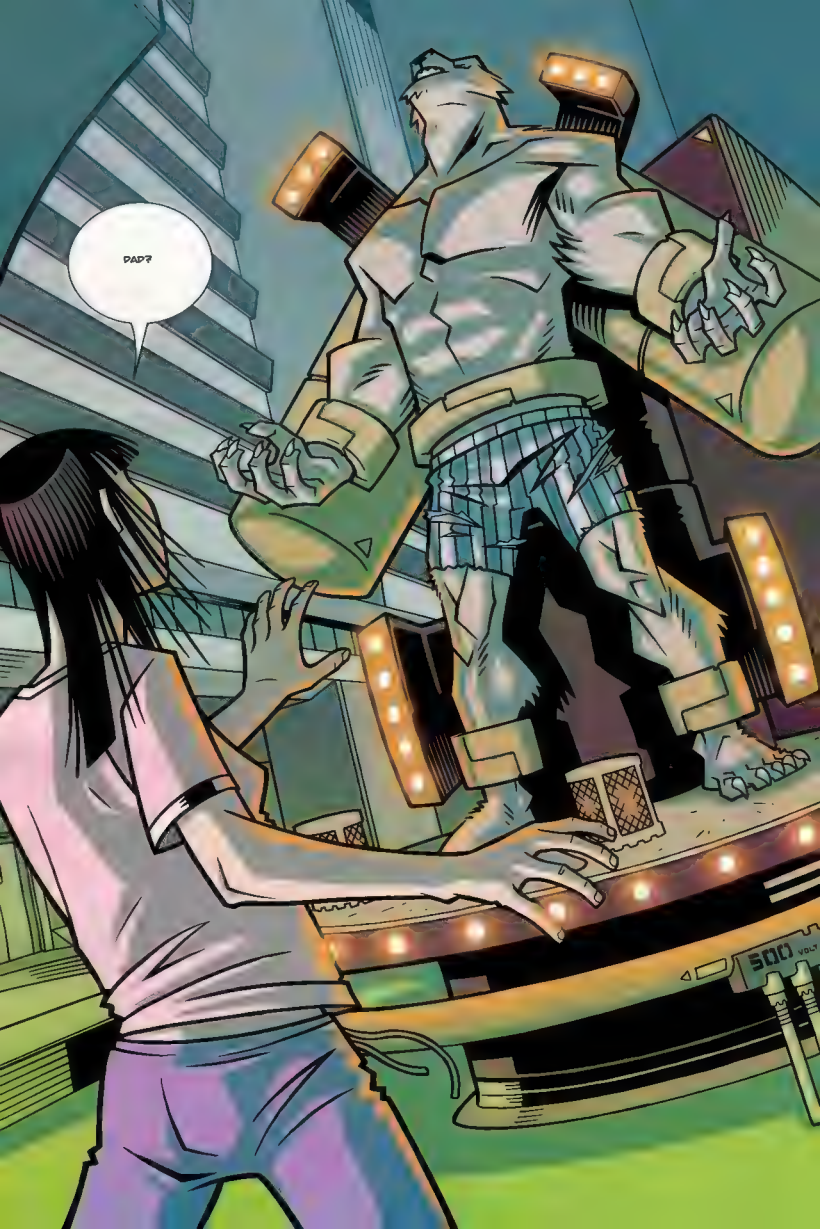
ARE YOU--?

YEAH. IT'S ALMOST TIME, I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES.

I'LL, UH... SEE YOU IN THE MORNING?

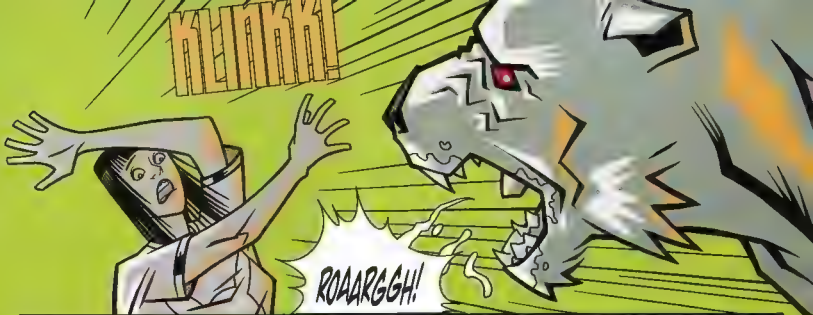
YEAH-- WE'LL CONTINUE THIS THEN.





DAD?

500 VOLT





I KNOW, HONEY. I KNOW. IT'S GOING TO BE HARD BUT WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS.

YOU'LL SEE.

MOM, JUST--WHEN WILL IT BE OVER?

WILL IT EVER BE OVER?

AND WHAT IF THINGS DON'T EVER GET BETTER?

WHAT IF THEY JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE?



THE ASTOUNDING

6

\$2.99

Image

WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker, colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

created by **ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD**

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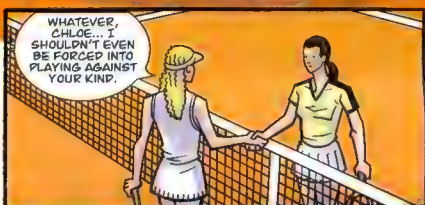
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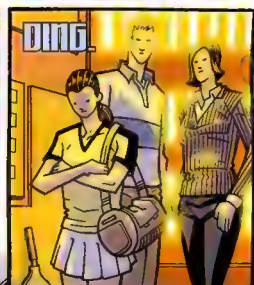
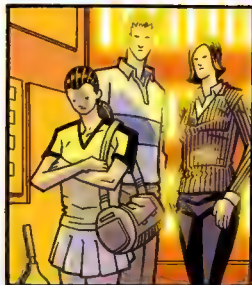
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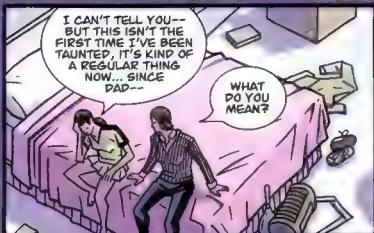
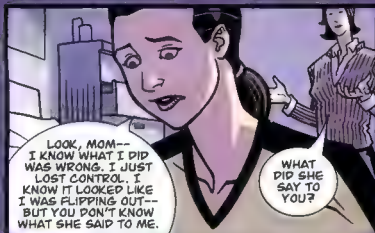
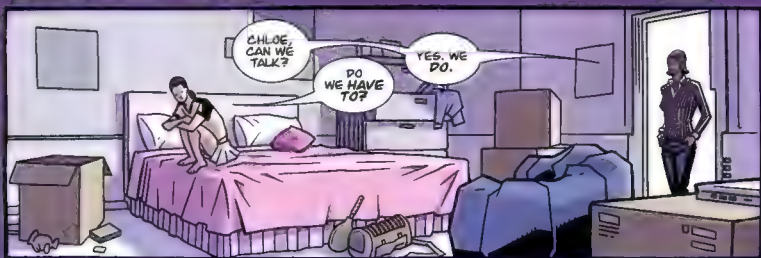
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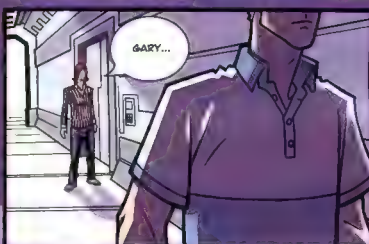












LATER THAT NIGHT.

WE'LL NEVER GET FAR ENOUGH AHEAD OF THEM LIKE THIS--I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE DOUBLED BACK AND GOTTEN THE CAR!

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM.

WEEEDOW WEEEDOW WEEEDOW

WEEEDOW WEEEDOW WEEEDOW

BOOM!!!

WE'LL NEVER
GET FAR ENOUGH
AHEAD OF THEM
LIKE THIS--I TOLD
YOU WE SHOULD
HAVE DOUBLED
BACK AND GOTTEN
THE CAR!

ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING?
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

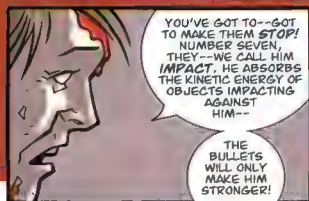
BLOWING
OFF SOME
STEAM.

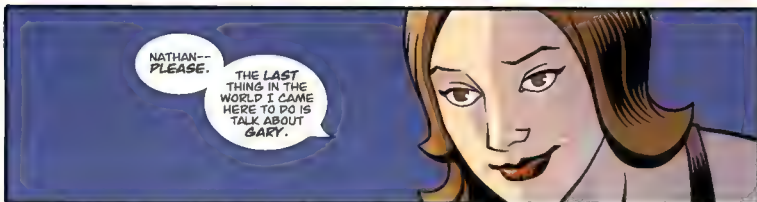
WIFFOWWEEOWEEOW!

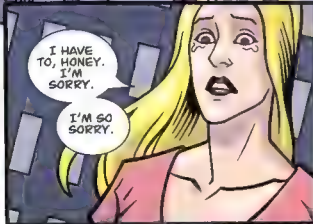
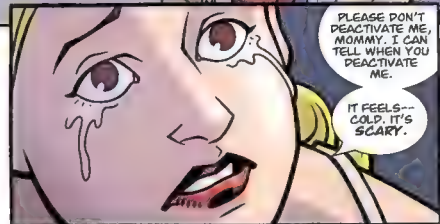
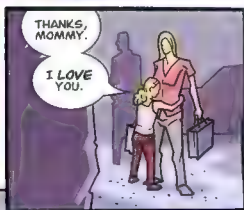
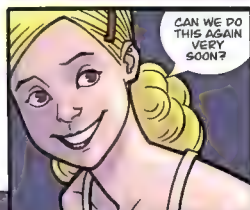


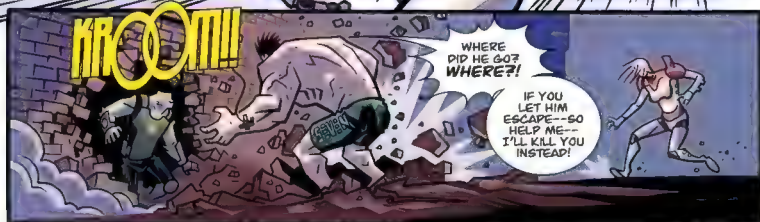
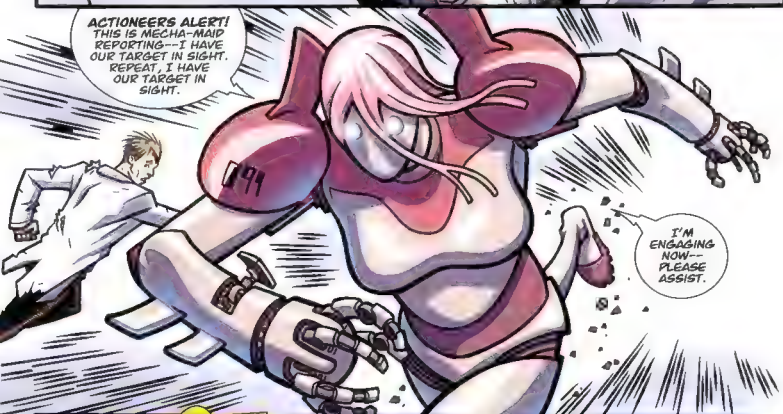


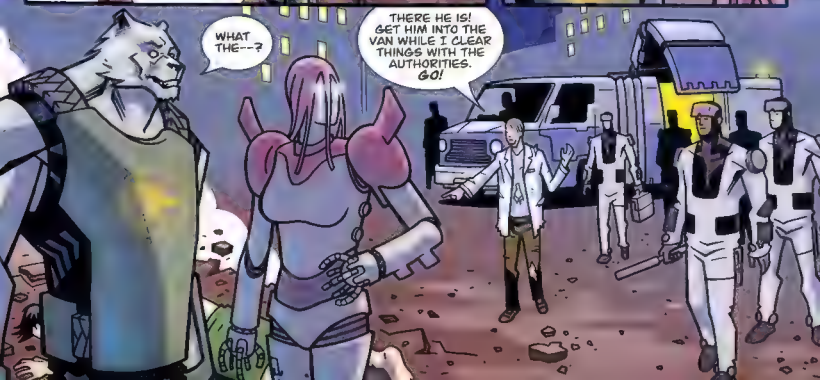
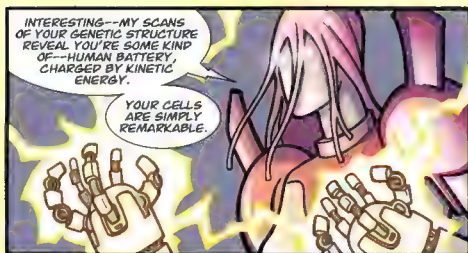
...RUNNING
FROM
HIM.







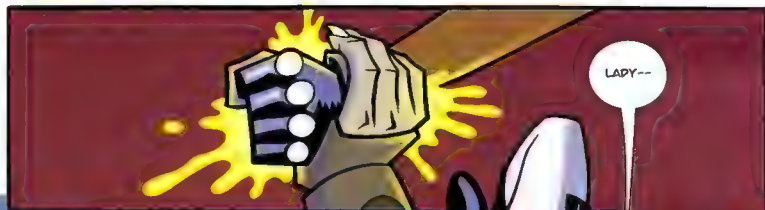




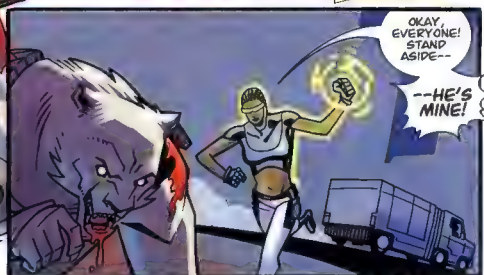
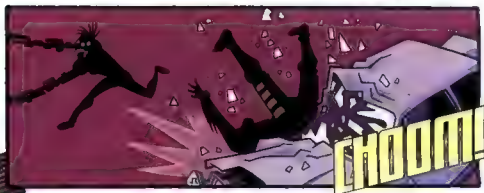
MURDERER!

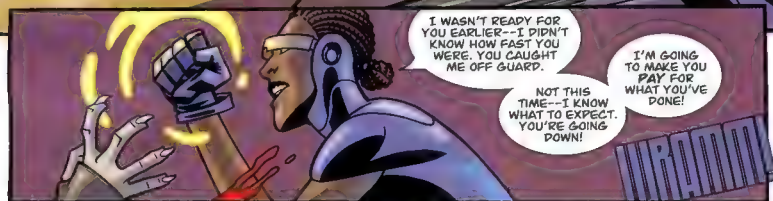
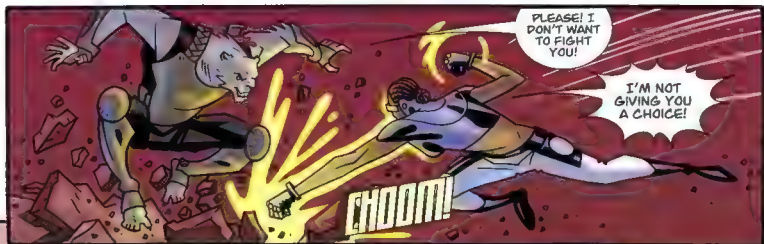
BRANKOOM!

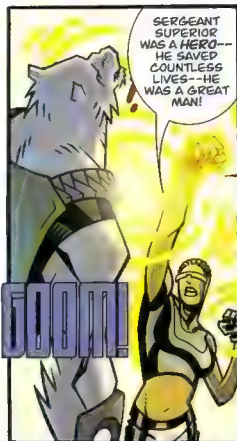












SERGEANT
SUPERIOR
WAS A HERO--
HE SAVED
COUNTLESS
LIVES--HE
WAS A GREAT
MAN!

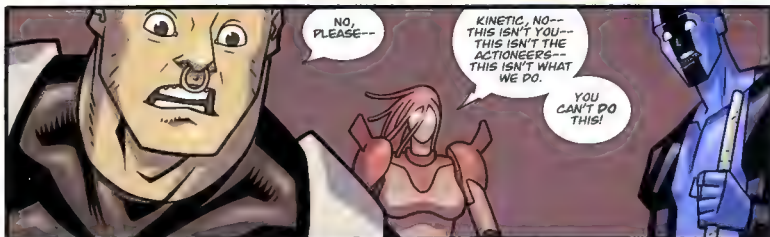


YOU
SPILLED
HIS BLOOD--
NOW I'M
SPILLING
YOURS!



YOU
KILLED
HIM--

NOW
I'M GOING
TO KILL
YOU!



NO,
PLEASE--

KINETIC, NO--
THIS ISN'T YOU--
THIS ISN'T THE
ACTIONEERS--
THIS ISN'T WHAT
WE DO.

YOU
CAN'T DO
THIS!



I CAN, DON'T YOU
REMEMBER WHAT
HE DID? WHAT
HE'S CAPABLE
OF? HE--

HE--



KINETIC--



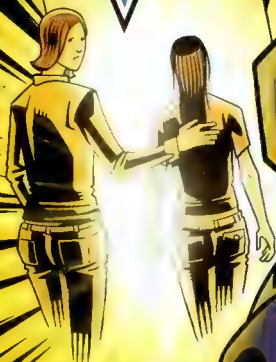


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WOLFEMAN



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WRAAAAA!

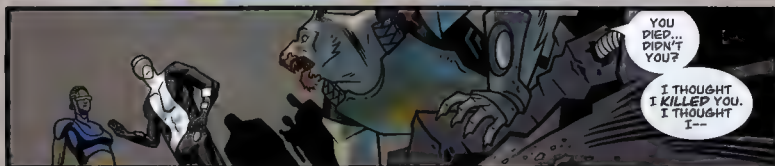
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!



WHAT HAVE YOU TURNED HIM INTO--YOU MONSTER?!

KINETIC, PLEASE-- YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS. NONE OF THIS IS HIS FAULT.

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO REALIZE THIS... BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.



YOU DIED... DIDN'T YOU?

I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU. I THOUGHT I--



YOU DID... FOR THE MOST PART. YOU LEFT ENOUGH OF ME FOR YOUR FRIEND ZECHARIAH TO BRING ME BACK.

HE'S WAITING FOR YOU--JUST GO, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO MY FRIENDS.



YOU CAN'T LET HIM GO!

NOT AFTER WHAT HE DID!



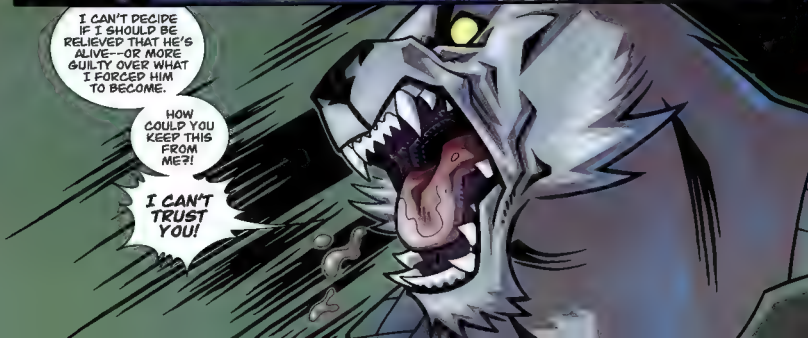
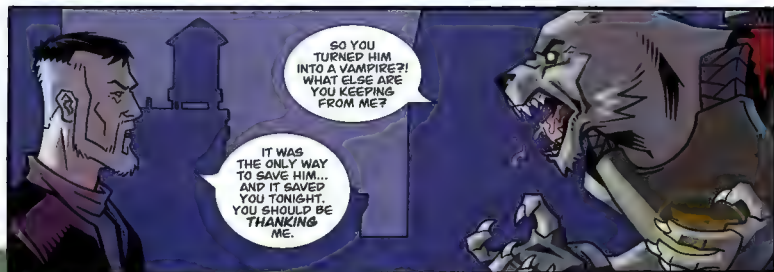
WE CAN--AND WE ARE. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO EXPLAIN. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WHEN I'M DONE.

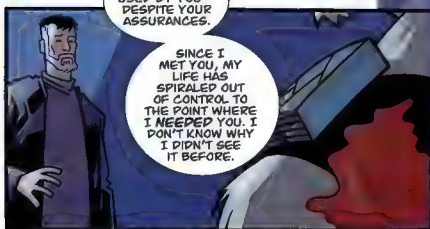
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE HERE, MAN...

START EXPLAINING!

TRUST ME, WHEN I'M DONE--EVERYTHING WILL MAKE PERFECT SENSE...

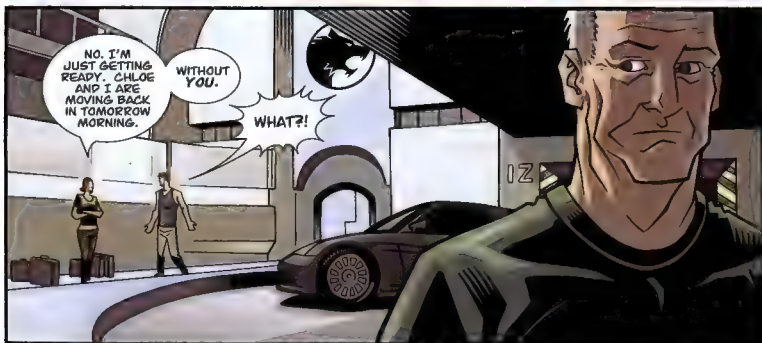
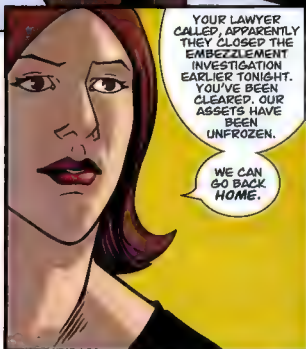


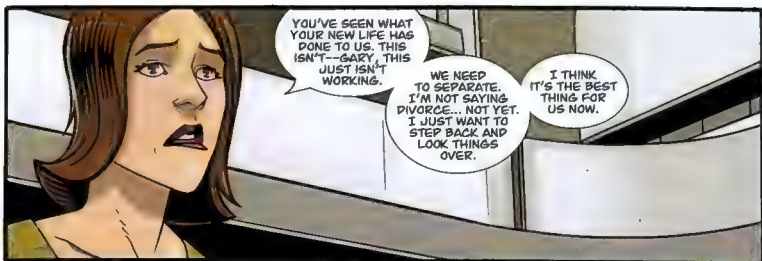


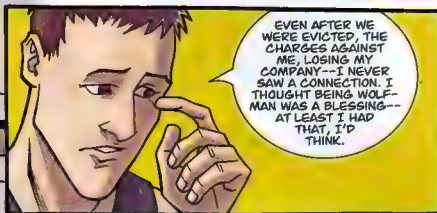
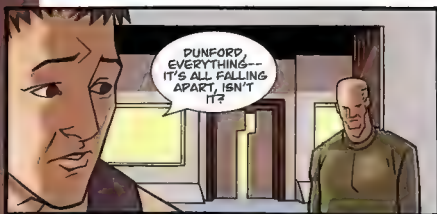


THE WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER,
BUILT ATOP
WOLF-MAN'S
SECRET LAIR.

WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER



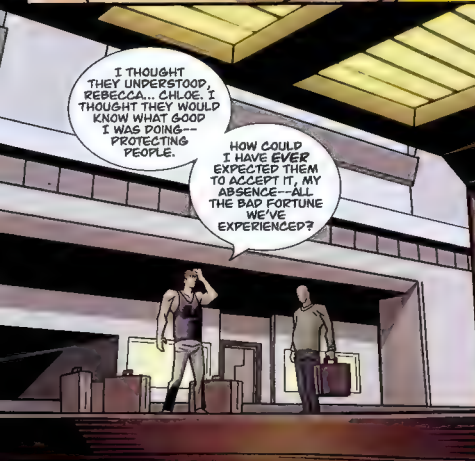






WHEN THIS ALL STARTED, I JUST... I THOUGHT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK IN A TANGIBLE, VISIBLE WAY. I GIVE TO CHARITY... I HELP THE COMMUNITY BUT IT NEVER FELT LIKE ENOUGH.

MY SUCCESS... IT ALWAYS BROUGHT ME SUCH AN OVERWHELMING FEELING OF GUILT, SEEING ALL THOSE AROUND ME, NOT DOING AS WELL--SEEING THE PEOPLE OF MY COMMUNITY STRUGGLE.



I THOUGHT THEY UNDERSTOOD REBECCA... CHLOE. I THOUGHT THEY WOULD KNOW WHAT GOOD I WAS DOING--PROTECTING PEOPLE.

HOW COULD I HAVE EVER EXPECTED THEM TO ACCEPT IT, MY ABSENCE--ALL THE BAD FORTUNE WE'VE EXPERIENCED?

YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN, SIR.

THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.



NO, DUNFORD-- YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

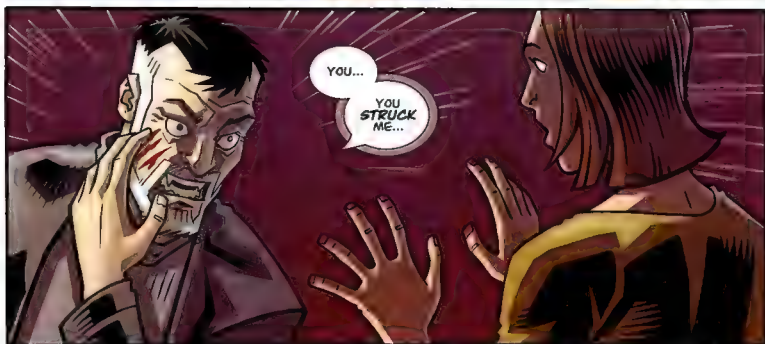
BEING WOLF-MAN HAS RUINED MY LIFE.

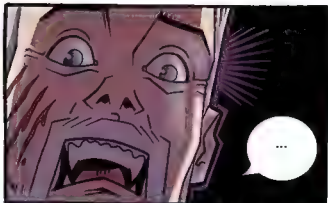
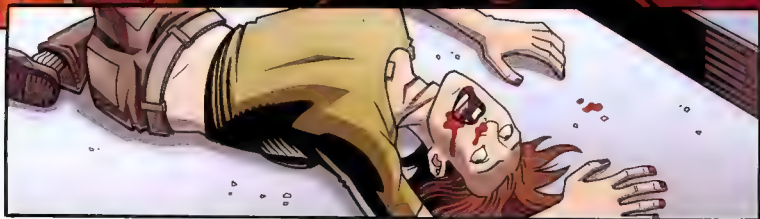


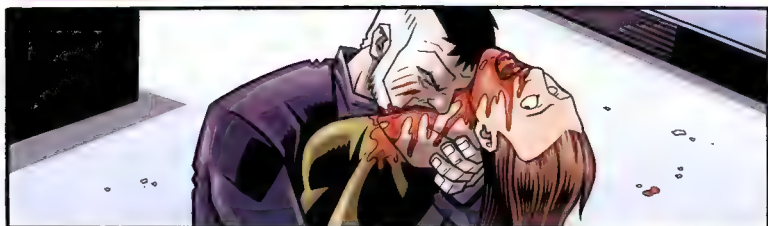
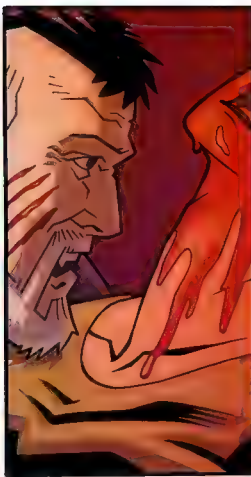
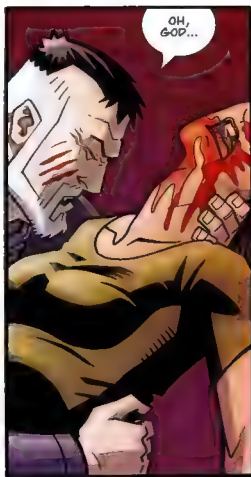
IT HAS TO STOP.

I HAVE TO STOP.











WHAT
DID YOU
DO?!

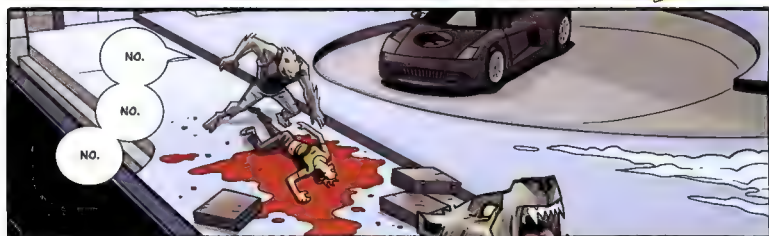


GARY--NO! THIS
ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS
LIKE! IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT! YOU
HAVE TO--!!

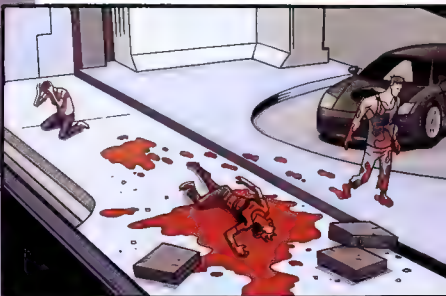
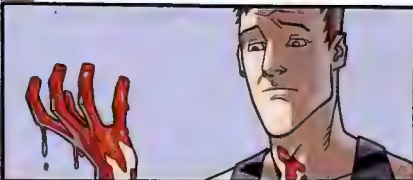
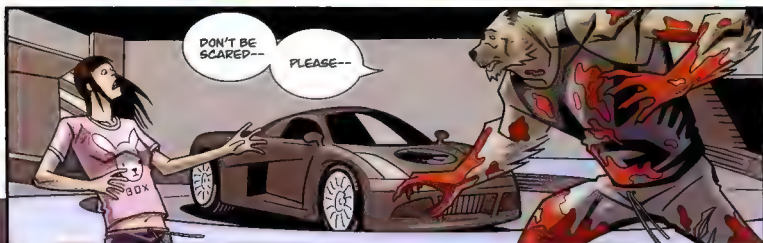


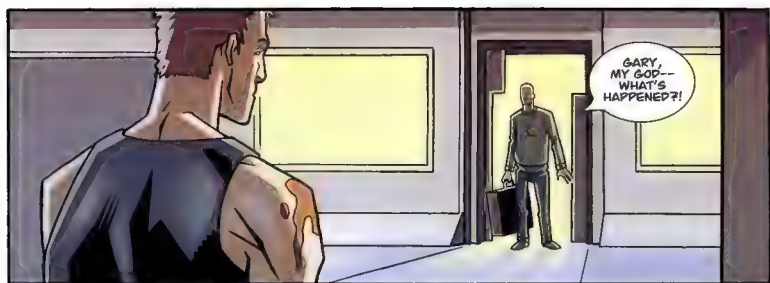
WHAT
DID YOU
DO?!

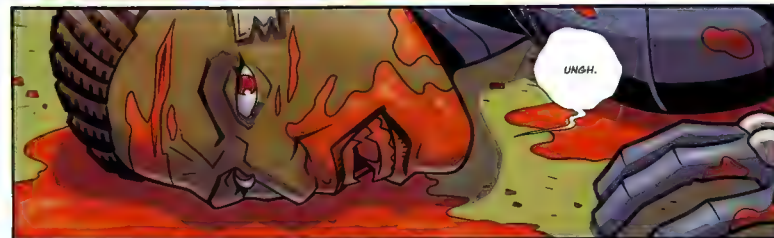
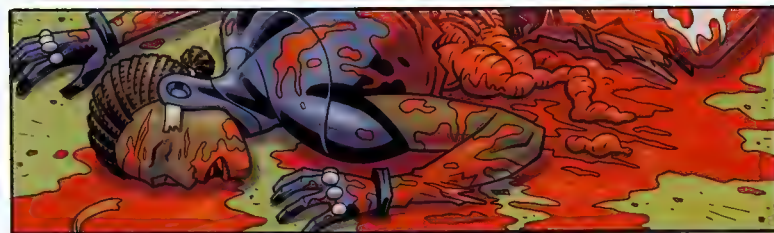
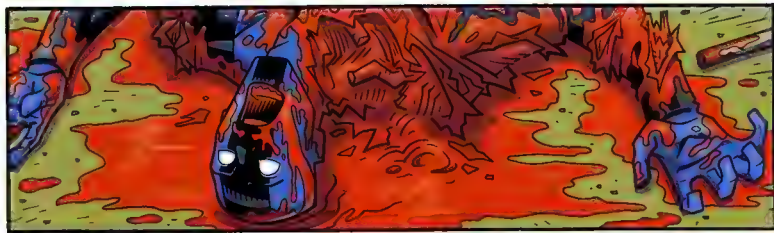
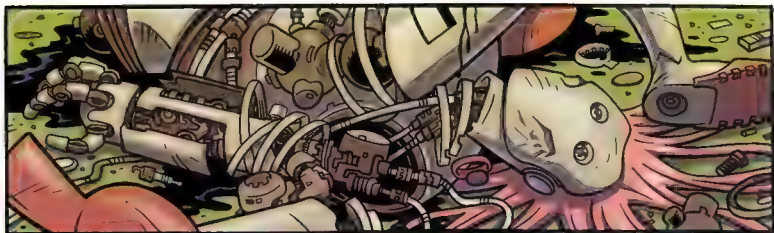
IT WAS
SUPERIOR--
HIS SUPER-
HUMAN BLOOD!
IT WAS--













IT IS
DONE, MY
MASTER.

THIS IS
WRONG...
THIS IS ALL
WRONG.

THIS
ISN'T HOW
THINGS WERE
SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN.



\$1.99

MONSTER PILE-UP

1



ALL NEW
STORIES
FEATURING:

ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN

FIREBREATHER

PERHAPANAUTS

PROOF

BY THE REGULAR
CREATIVE TEAMS!

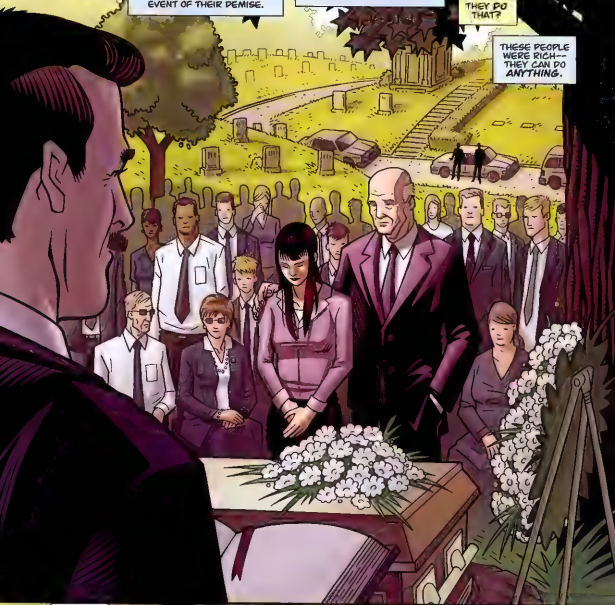
WAIT A MINUTE--
THE BUTLER GOT
CUSTODY?

THERE'S A WILL, THE MOTHER
AND THE FATHER AGREED THE
BUTLER, THIS DUNFORD
CHARACTER, WOULD BE HER
LEGAL GUARDIAN IN THE
EVENT OF THEIR DEMISE.

BECAUSE OF THE FATHER'S
LEGAL STATUS--THE ASSETS
HAVE BEEN DIVIDED, THE
FATHER'S IS FROZEN, THE
BUTLER IS NOW IN CONTROL
OF THE MOTHER'S HALF.

THEY DO
THAT?

THESE PEOPLE
WERE RICH--
THEY CAN DO
ANYTHING.



DO YOU
REALLY THINK
HE'S GOING
TO SHOW UP
HERE?

THE FATHER? I
DON'T KNOW. GARY
HAMPTON HAS BEEN
MISSING FOR DAYS...
HIS SECRET'S OUT--
EVERYONE KNOWS
HE'S WOLF-MAN...
BUT NOBODY
KNOWS WHERE
HE IS.

THIS IS
AS GOOD A
PLACE AS
ANY TO
LOOK.





FACT IS, UNTIL WE GET A LEAD--A SIGHTING, ANY KIND OF REPORT--AN EYEWITNESS TO SOMETHING... KEEPING AN EYE ON THIS GIRL IS THE BEST BET WE GOT.

THIS GUY'S A REAL MONSTER. HE COMES BACK TO FINISH THE JOB-- I'D LIKE TO BE THERE TO PUT ONE BETWEEN HIS EYES.

MAN GETS TURNED INTO A WEREWOLF-- SNAPS, BRUTALLY MURDERS HIS WIFE.



IT WAS TERRIBLE--THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE. DID YOU SEE THE CRIME SCENE? HE ALMOST TWISTED THAT POOR WOMAN'S HEAD OFF.



THEN HIS DAUGHTER FINDS HIM-- DISTRACTS HIM BEFORE HE CAN COMPLETELY DISMEMBER HER MOM. POOR KID'S ONLY FIFTEEN, SHE'S GOT TO FIND THIS--SEE HER DAD THIS WAY.

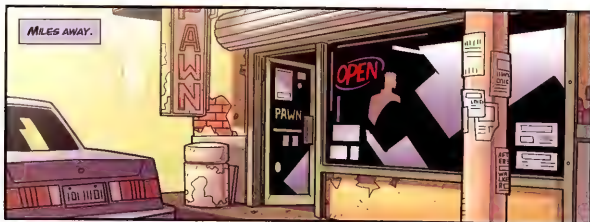


IT'S HORRIBLE. HE'S RUINED THIS POOR GIRL'S LIFE.

KNOWING WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF...

...I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES.







YOU REALLY THINK I DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE?

IT'S MY BUSINESS TO KNOW THINGS... GARY HAMPTON, WOLF-MAN... MISTER MILLIONAIRE.

THE PRICE IS A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN I ORIGINALLY QUOTED YOU, YOU MURDERING SON OF A BITCH.



I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE. THE ONLY REASON I HAVEN'T TURNED MYSELF IN IS BECAUSE I KNOW NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE MY STORY.

PLEASE, JUST-- HEAR ME OUT.



DO WE LOOK LIKE WE CARE?

YOU'RE LAMMING IT, SO YOU'VE EITHER GOT A WAD OF CASH IN THAT BAG--OR YOU'VE GOT A KEY TO A BOX THAT HAS A WAD OF CASH IN IT--OR BOTH. I WANT IT ALL.

NOW.



UNLESS I'VE GOT MY INFORMATION WRONG, AS LONG AS THAT SUN IS UP OUT THERE--WE GOT NO CHANCE OF YOU TURNING INTO A WEREWOLF AND KILLING US--

SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, SUPERHERO?

YOU READY TO DIE?

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #81



THE ASTOUNDING

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WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
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JASON HOWARD & FCO PLASCENCIA
colorists

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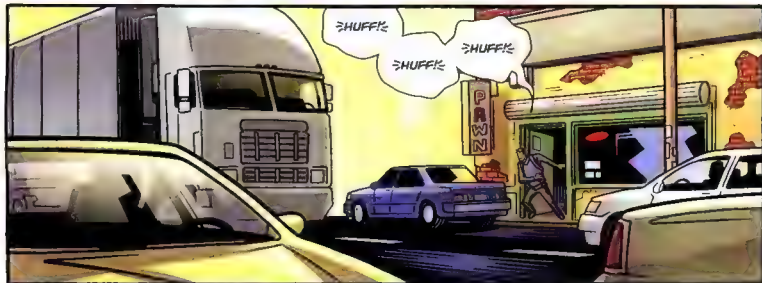
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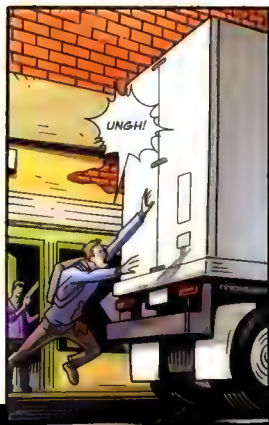
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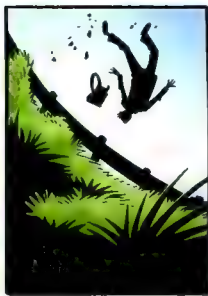
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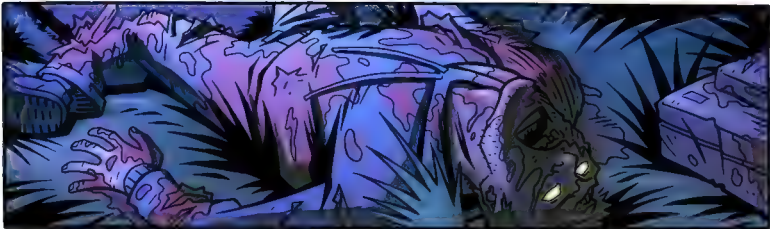
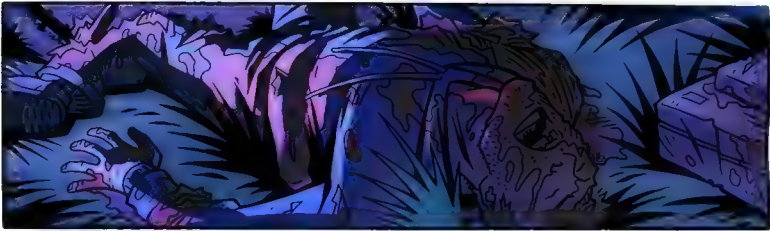
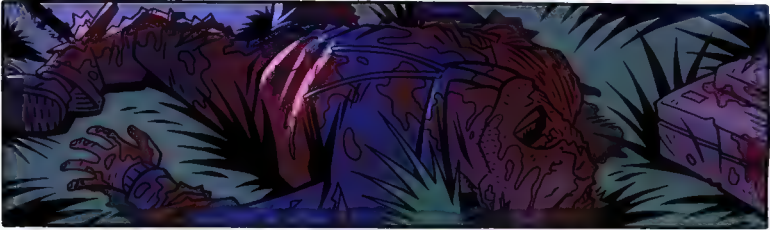
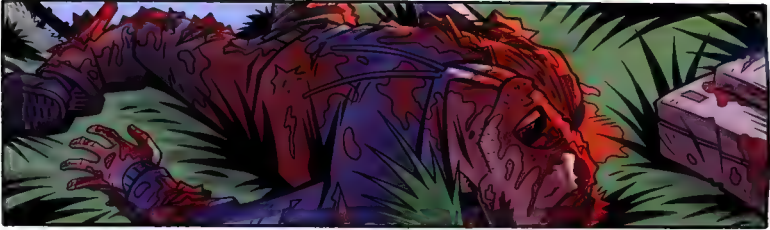




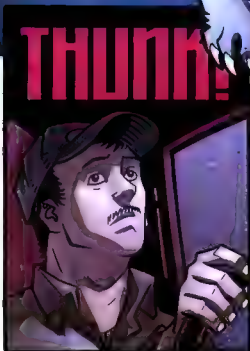
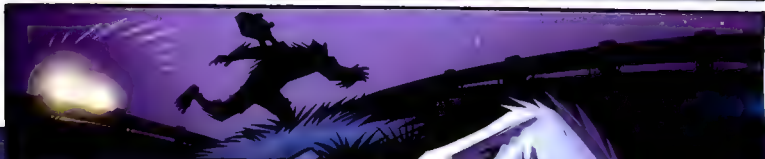
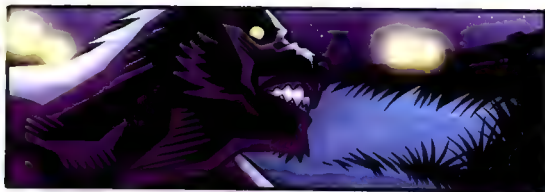




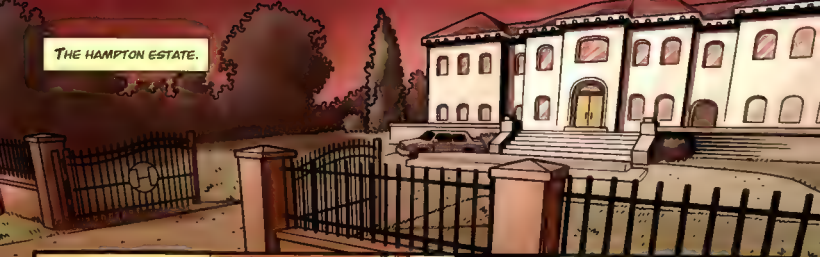


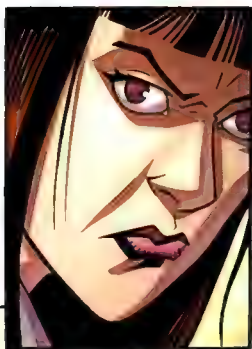


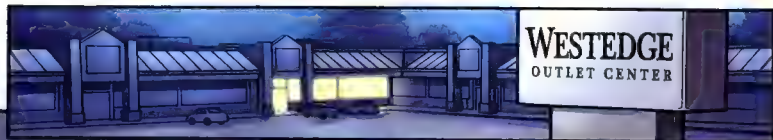




THE HAMPTON ESTATE.





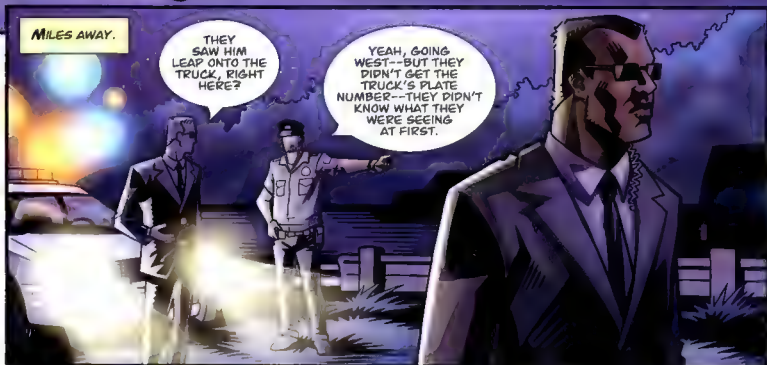


WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER



HE DIDN'T SHOW UP TO THE FUNERAL--WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'D COME TO THIS PLACE?

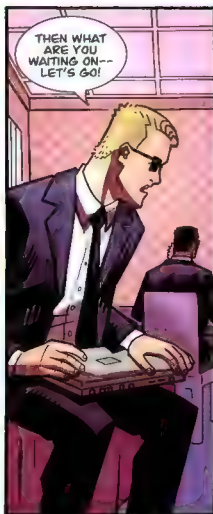
WHY ARE WE HERE?!













WILLOW CREEK
CAMPING GROUND.

WILLOW CREEK,
MONTANA.



IT'S--IT'S
NOT THAT
BAD.

S'FUNNY.

IT
FEELS
LIKE IT'S
PRETTY
BAD.





HGGHN.



I KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.



YOU
SEARCH FOR
ME BUT IT IS
I WHO HAVE
FOUND
YOU.

I CAUGHT
YOUR SCENT
THE MOMENT
YOU SET
FOOT IN MY
FOREST.



YOU WERE
CHOSEN.



CHOSEN
TO CARRY MY
LEGACY.



CHOSEN
TO SPREAD MY
INFLUENCE.



YOU WERE
NEVER MEANT
TO SHARE MY
PRESENCE.



WHY DID
YOU SEEK
ME OUT?



I WANT
YOU TO TEACH
ME HOW TO KILL
A VAMPIRE.

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WOLFMAN



WANTED

ROBERT KIRKMAN
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writer

JASON HOWARD
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DAMIAN DARKBLOOD INVESTIGATIONS





DEFEND
YOURSELF!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

WRA-KOON!



I'M ASKING FOR
YOUR HELP!
WHY ARE YOU
ATTACKING
ME?



TOO MUCH
TALKING!



I DIDN'T
COME HERE
TO FIGHT
YOU.

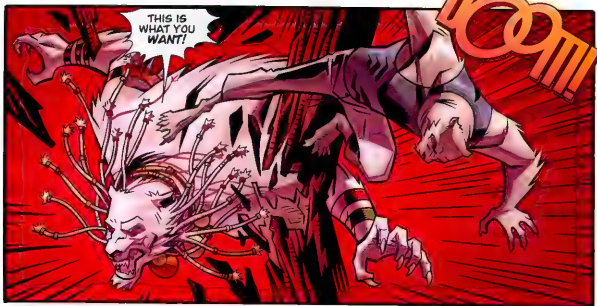


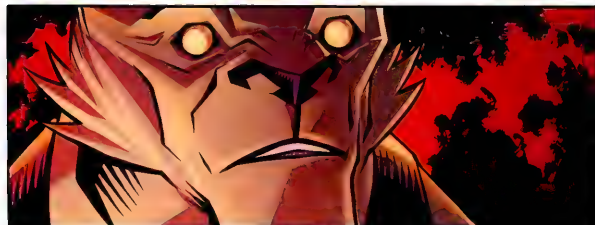
YOU ARE MISTAKEN--
THAT IS EXACTLY
WHAT YOU HAVE COME
HERE FOR!



YOU'RE
CRAZY!
STOP THIS--
JUST STOP
FOR A--

WRAAAA!!!







I CAN'T DO
THIS. I'M
SCARED,
MOMMY.



I NEED YOU TO
DO THIS, HONEY.
THEY DON'T KNOW
ABOUT YOU. YOU
CAN DISTRACT
THEM.

DON'T
WORRY, I
CAN SHUT
YOU DOWN
BEFORE THEY
TOUCH
YOU.

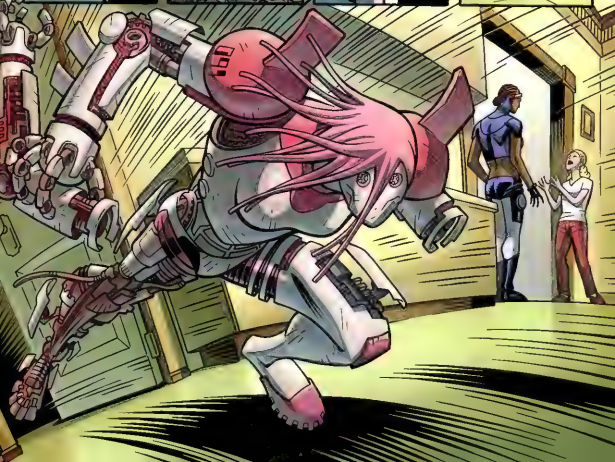


OKAY
MOMMY.

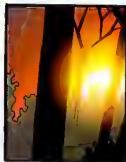


I'M
HUNGRY.

WHAT?!
HOW'D YOU
GET IN HERE,
LITTLE
GIRL?!



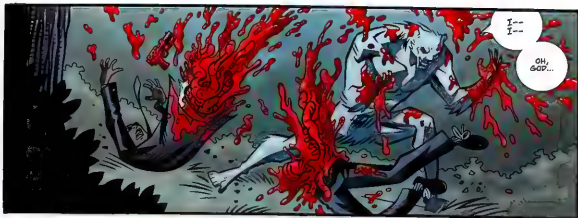














BLAM!





TELL ME,
IS THAT WHAT
IT WAS LIKE
WHEN YOU
KILLED YOUR
WIFE?

YOU
TELL HER
YOU WERE
SORRY?



I DIDN'T
KILL HER!

THEN TURN
YOURSELF IN!
IF YOU'RE SO
INNOCENT,
WHY DID YOU
RUN?!



NO ONE
WOULD
BELIEVE ME,
I HAVE
TO--



KRAK!

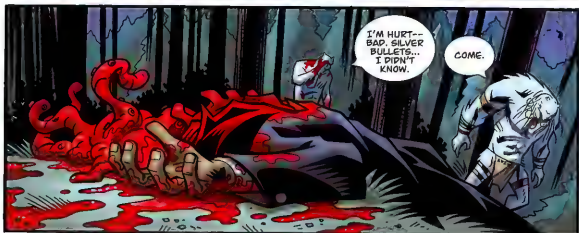


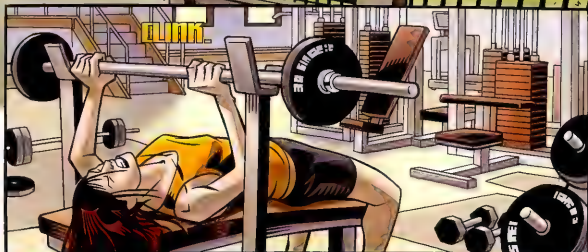
SORRY, DID YOU THINK
I ACTUALLY CARED
WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY?
I'M TAKING YOU IN
REGARDLESS.

HOW MANY
SHOTS TO THE
SKULL DO YOU
THINK YOU
CAN TAKE?

LAST
CHANCE TO
SURRENDER.







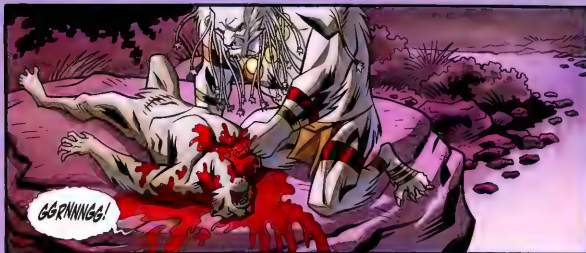
MISS CHLOE HAMPTON.



HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?! WE'VE GOT SECURITY-- WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION. I ASSUMED YOU'D WANT TO KNOW RIGHT AWAY.

I'VE FOUND HIM.







THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN

Image

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JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
letterer

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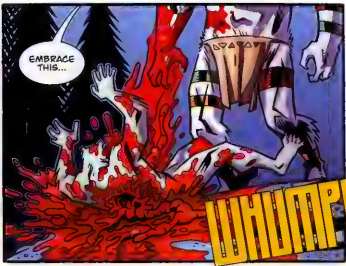
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YES... FEEL
YOUR LIFE DRAINING
AWAY--FEEL THE
BLOOD LEAVING YOUR
BODY--TAKING
YOUR STRENGTH
WITH IT.



EMBRACE
THIS...

WHUMP!



DYING... CAN'T...
I'M GOING TO...
I'VE GOT TO
CHANGE
BACK...

NO!



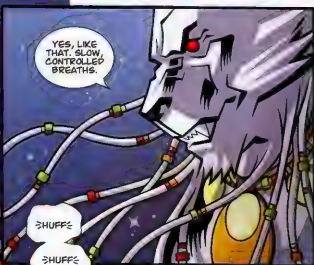
YOU STAY AS YOU ARE! YOU
RELY ON THE TRANSFORMATION
TOO MUCH--IT'S A CRUTCH,
A WEAKNESS--SOMETHING
THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED.

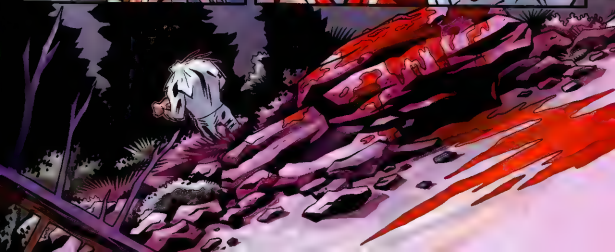
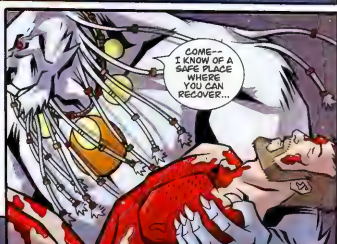
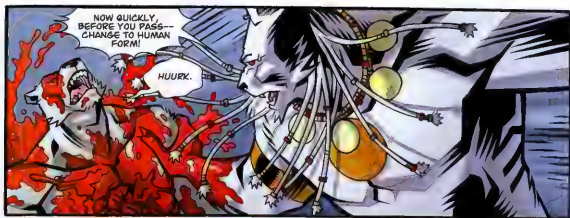


YOU WISH FOR ME TO
TRAIN YOU TO FIGHT A
VAMPIRE--ONE WITH
ANY KNOWLEDGE WILL
BE ABLE TO TURN YOUR
STRENGTHS INTO
WEAKNESSES.

YOU HAVE
TO BE PREPARED
TO OVERCOME THAT.
HEALING FROM A WOUND
LIKE YOU'VE JUST
SUSTAINED WILL DRAIN
YOU--WHEN YOU REVERT
TO HUMAN FORM
YOU WILL LOSE
CONSCIOUSNESS
ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY.

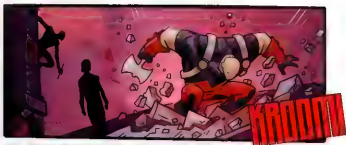
THAT IS WHEN YOUR
OPPONENT WOULD STRIKE.
YOU MUST BE ABLE TO
PREPARE FOR THAT--USE THIS
TIME TO ESCAPE TO SAFETY
BEFORE YOU TURN--ALLOW YOUR
HEALING ABILITIES TO KEEP YOU
ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FLEE.



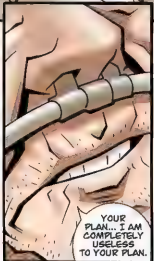
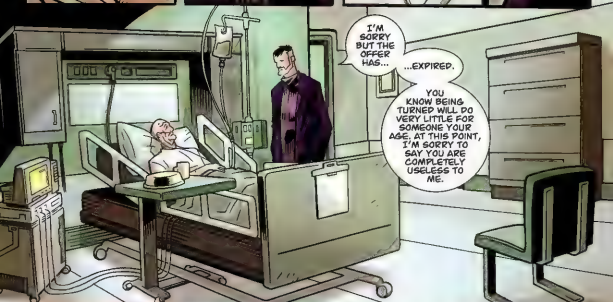




LATER.











I'D READ DRACULA, I
KNEW WHAT A VAMPIRE
WAS--AND LEARNING
THAT THEY WERE REAL
HAD SENT MY MIND
RACING.

IF EVERYTHING I KNEW WAS
TRUE--THEY'D PROBABLY
BEEN AROUND AS LONG AS
HUMANS--AND THEY'D HAVE
BEEN LIVING IN SECRET
ALL THIS TIME.

I THOUGHT OF HOW MUCH
INFLUENCE THEY MUST
HAVE--WITH THEIR POWERS
OVER THE HUMAN MIND--
HOW THEY MUST HAVE
STEERED THE COURSE
OF CIVILIZATION.

I PICTURED A SECRET
ARMY, LEGIONS OF VAMPIRE
SOLDIERS READY TO STRIKE
WHENEVER THE ORDER
WAS GIVEN.

I REJOICED TO BE BROUGHT INTO
THE FOLD OF SUCH AN ESTEEMED
SOCIETY--ONE WITH SUCH POWER--
THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD
WAS LEFT UNAWARE OF.



THEY'D BEEN WATCHING ME FOR A DAY. I WAS AN OUTSIDER. I WAS SOMEONE NOBODY IN THE CITY WOULD MISS...

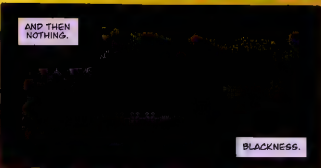


I WAS LUCKY.



AT LEAST--THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT IN THE BEGINNING.

AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. I SAW AN ARGUMENT OVER ME--SOMETHING SAID ABOUT TURNING ME.



AND THEN NOTHING.

BLACKNESS.



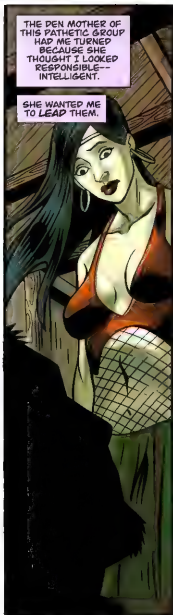
I AWOKE TO A CHANGED WORLD... I'D HEARD STORIES, THOUGH--I KNEW WHAT I WAS... AND I WAS EXCITED.



OF COURSE...
I WAS WRONG.

I WOULD EVENTUALLY LEARN
JUST HOW DISORGANIZED AND
PATHETIC VAMPIRES REALLY
WERE. THEY WERE JUNKIES,
ADDICTS... CONTROLLED BY
THEIR HUNGER, A SLAVE TO IT.

THEY WERE TOO WORRIED
ABOUT WHERE THEY COULD
GET THEIR NEXT MEAL TO
EVER ORGANIZE AND
ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.



THE DEN MOTHER OF
THIS PATHETIC GROUP
HAD ME TURNED
BECAUSE SHE
THOUGHT I LOOKED
RESPONSIBLE--
INTELLIGENT.

SHE WANTED ME
TO LEAD THEM.



I HAD
OTHER
PLANS.

IT WAS REMARKABLY EASY
TO ESCAPE FROM THEM,
DESPITE KNOWING VERY
LITTLE ABOUT MY NEW
POWERS.



I DIDN'T KNOW
WHERE ELSE TO
GO... SO I WENT
HOME.

IT WOULD BE A VERY LONG
TIME BEFORE I TOLD HER
ABOUT MY SECRET. I WAS
ABLE TO HIDE THE CHANGES
I WAS GOING THROUGH
FROM HER.

I CAME BACK WITH NEWS
OF A JOB, I TOLD HER WE
NEEDED TO LIVE IN THE CITY.
IT WASN'T A JOB WE WERE
MOVING FOR.

I NEEDED BLOOD.



AND I HAD THE WAY TO GET IT.

WHO BETTER TO BRAIN THAN THE TRULY WICKED? I HAVE TO DO IT TO SURVIVE, WHY NOT STRIKE OUT AGAINST THOSE WHO DESERVE IT?

THEIVES, RAPISTS, MURDERERS... I WAS THE CITY'S GUARDIAN ANGEL.



ALTHOUGH I NEVER CONSIDERED MYSELF TO BE SO... I MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST SUPERHEROES.

I WAS GOOD AT WHAT I DID.

IT MADE ME WONDER WHY I SEEMED LIKE THE ONLY VAMPIRE WHO COULD GET IT TOGETHER--ORGANIZE, FIND A WAY TO FEED THE HUNGER ON A REGULAR BASIS WITHOUT BECOMING A SLAVE TO IT.

I WONDERED WHY I WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH A PLAN.



MY PLAN.

I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THE VAMPIRE NATION I WANTED TO FORCE INTO EXISTENCE--THAT WHICH I'D HOPED ALREADY EXISTED... BUT DIDN'T.

I PROTECTED THE CITY, KEPT MYSELF FED, BUT I ALSO TAUGHT MYSELF-- EVERYTHING. HOW THE BLOOD AFFECTS ME, WHAT MY POWERS WERE-- ALL OF THEM.

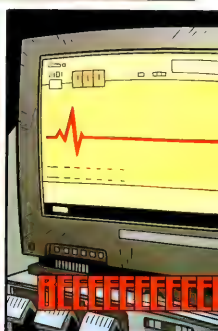
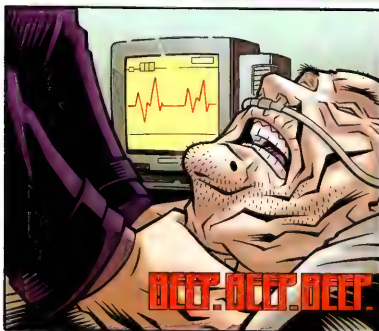
I SET OUT TO USE MY KNOWLEDGE TO UNITE THE VAMPIRE POPULATION-- TO FORM AN ORGANIZED AND COHESIVE SECRET SOCIETY-- ONE THAT COULD INFLUENCE AND CHANGE THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY.

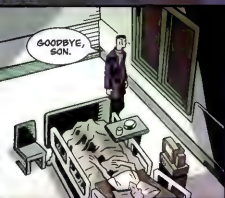
I WANTED TO RULE THE WORLD SO THAT I COULD MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE... BUT MOST OF ALL, I WANTED TO RULE.

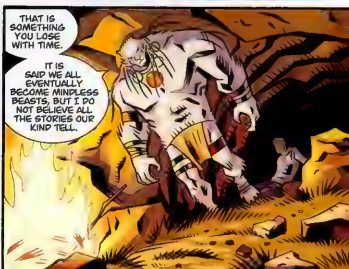
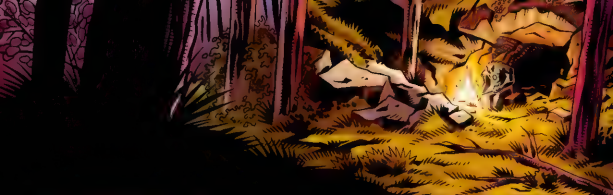
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME BUMPS IN THE ROAD ALONG THE WAY--BUT FOR THE MOST PART, THE PLAN REMAINS THE SAME, AND I AM CLOSER TODAY THAN I WAS YESTERDAY.

I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T BE A PART OF IT.





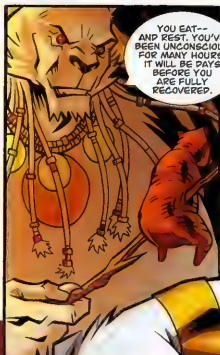






THIS
JUST... KEEPS
GETTING
BETTER.

WHAT
DO I DO
NOW?



YOU EAT--
AND REST. YOU'VE
BEEN UNCONSCIOUS
FOR MANY HOURS.
IT WILL BE DAYS
BEFORE YOU
ARE FULLY
RECOVERED.



WHERE...?

YOU HAVE
ENOUGH FOOD
FOR ONE. I
SUGGEST YOU
SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH FOR
WHEN YOU
RUN OUT.

WHERE
WILL YOU
BE?



THAT IS NOT FOR YOU
TO KNOW. YOU HAVE
YOUR TRIALS--THEY
ARE FOR YOU ALONE. IT
WILL HELP ME DECIDE
IF YOU ARE WORTHY
TO CONTINUE MY
TRAINING.

YOUR
CURRENT
TRIAL IS--
SURVIVE.



SOMEWHERE ELSE.



YOU'RE SURE
THIS IS THE
PLACE? YOU'RE
SURE HE'S
HERE?

YES, THAT IS
THE PLACE. YES,
HE IS IN THERE, I
ASSURE YOU.
YOU HAVE MY
PERSONAL
GUARANTEE.

I KNOW
WHAT I'M
DOING, MISS
HAMPTON.



YOU'D
BETTER BE
RIGHT. THE
MONEY HAS
ALREADY BEEN
TRANSFERRED
INTO YOUR
ACCOUNT.

BYE.



POCK.

UH...



WHY
ARE YOU
HERE? IF
YOUR FATHER
KNEW
HE--



MY FATHER
HAS LOST HIS
MIND, HE CAN'T
CONTROL
HIMSELF ANY
MORE.

HE
MURDERED
MY MOTHER.

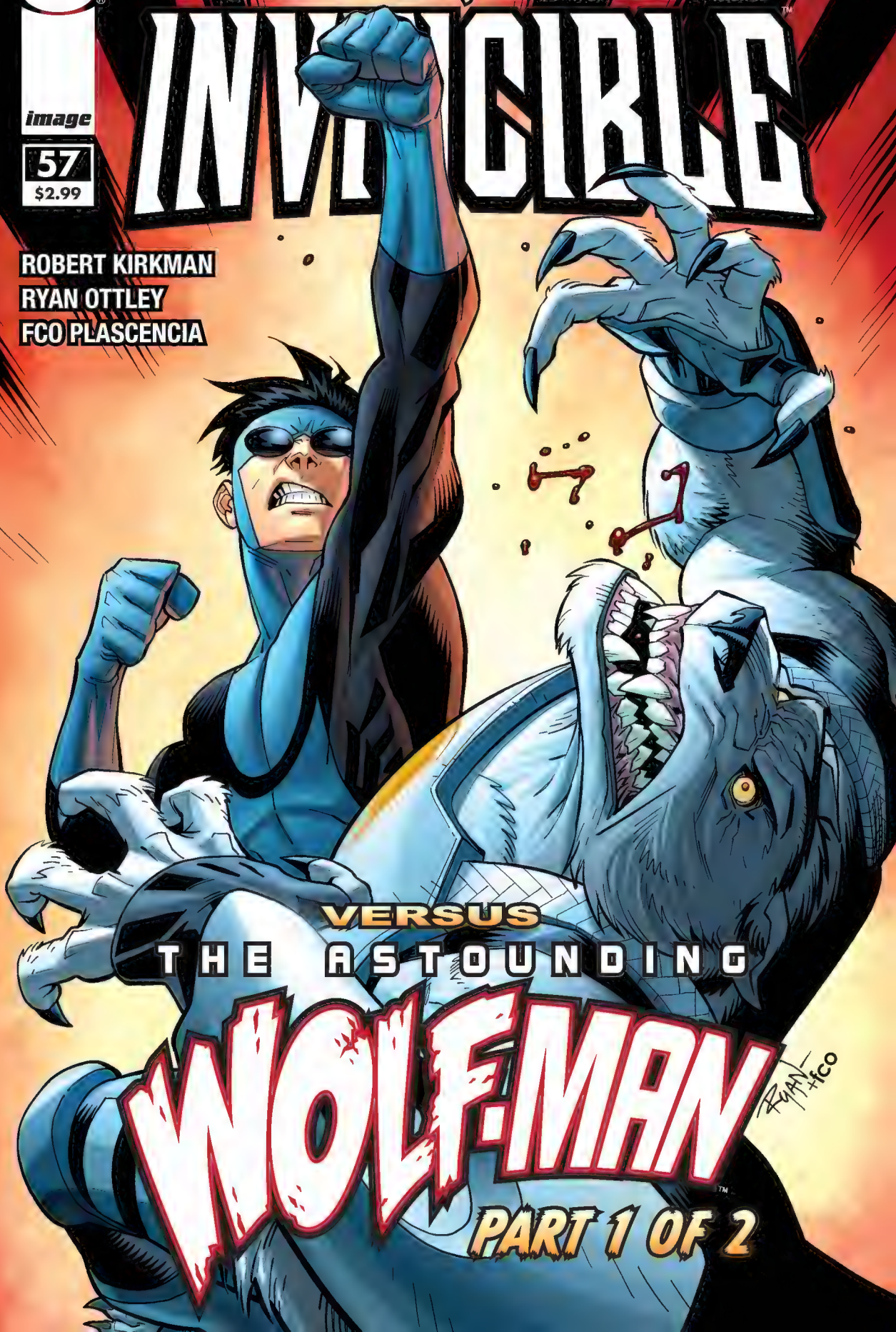
I WANT
YOU TO HELP
ME KILL
HIM.



THE ALL-NEW, ALL-AWESOME

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
RYAN OTTLEY
FCO PLASCENCIA



VERSUS
THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN

PART 1 OF 2

image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER

CLIFF RATHBURN
INKER

FCD PLASCENCIA
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

AUBREY SITTERSON
EDITOR

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY & FCD PLASCENCIA

INVINCIBLE CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

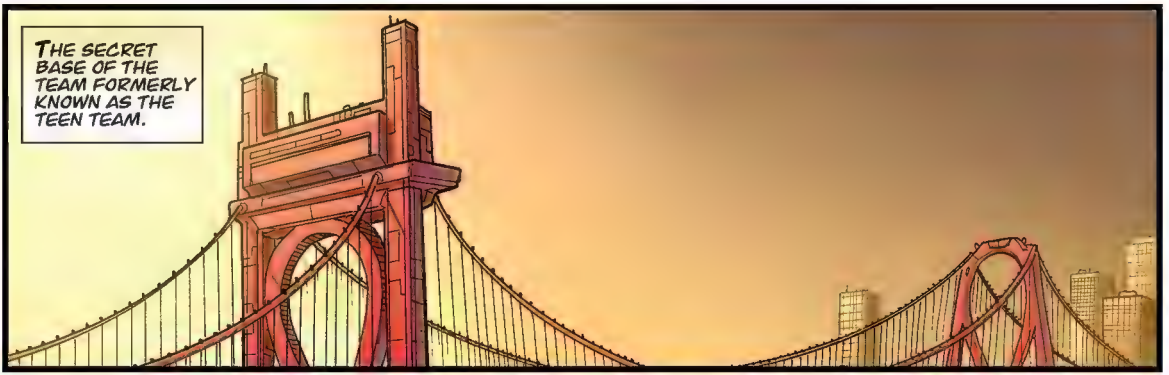


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THE SECRET
BASE OF THE
TEAM FORMERLY
KNOWN AS THE
TEEN TEAM.



WE'VE BEEN
HERE ALMOST
ALL DAY. HOW
MUCH LONGER
IS THIS GOING
TO TAKE?

YEAH, ROBOT,
REALLY... WOULD
IT SPEED THINGS
UP IF YOU--I
DON'T KNOW...
HELPED...
YOURSELF?

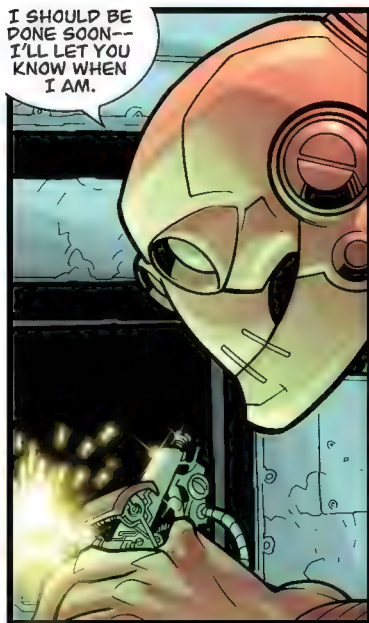


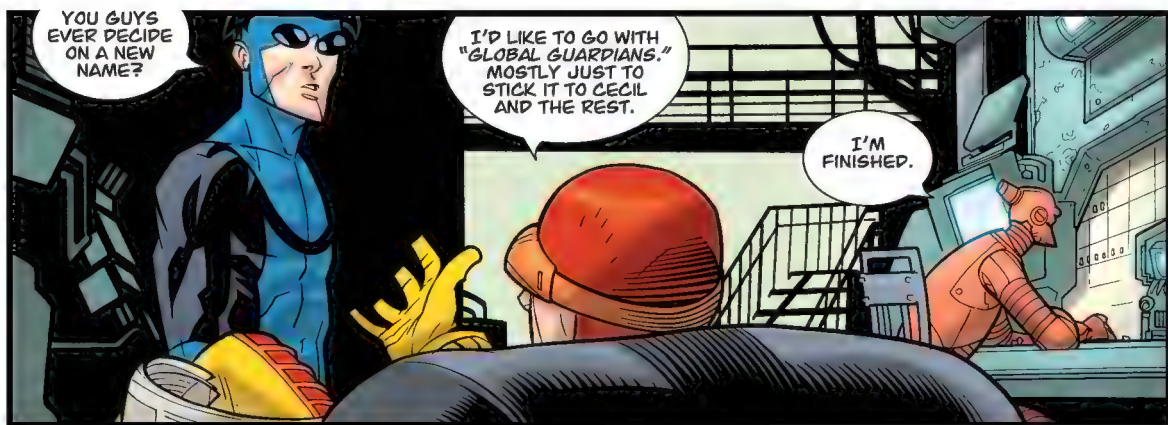
I ASSURE YOU, SPLITTING
MY FOCUS LIKE THIS DOESN'T
SLOW ME DOWN. IN FACT, I'M
ANALYZING THAT PROBE YOU
DESTROYED THROUGH A
CONSTRUCT BECAUSE IT
ALLOWS ME TO BE MUCH
MORE PRECISE.

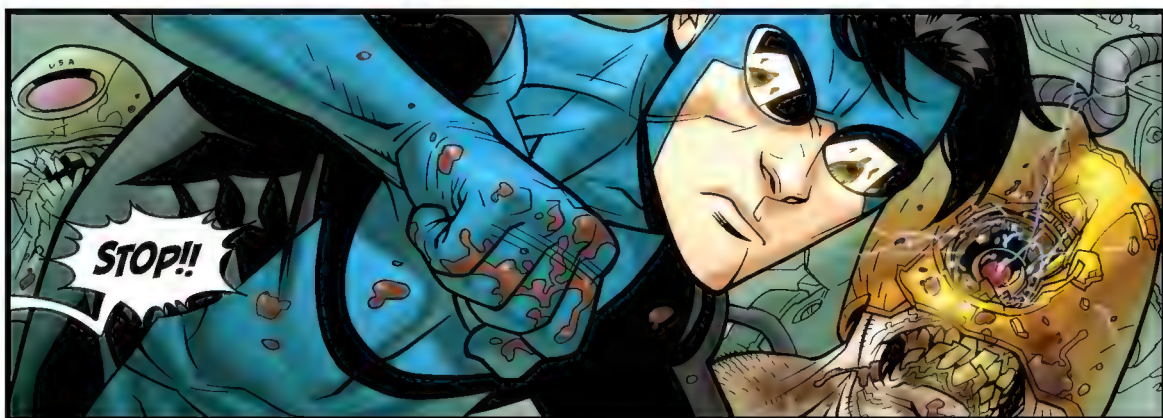
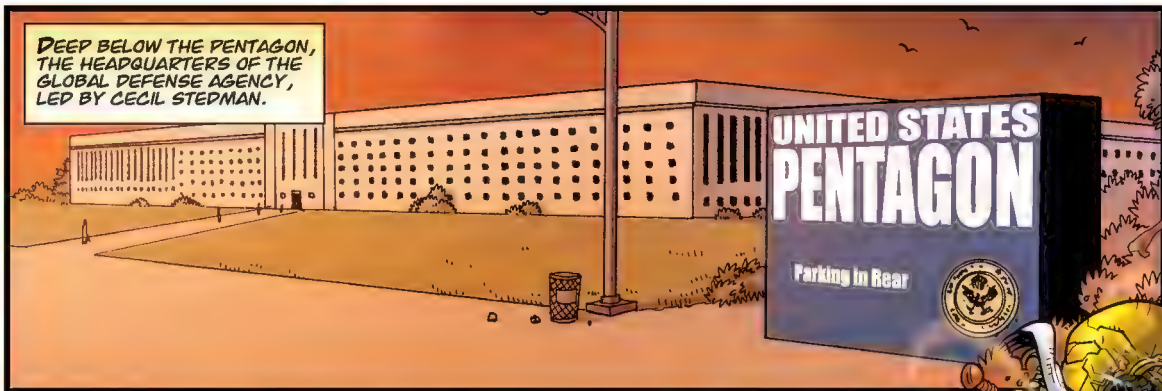
I'D REALLY
JUST SLOW
MYSELF DOWN
IF I TRIED TO
HELP.

OKAY, OKAY...
JUST DO WHAT
YOU CAN. I REALLY
APPRECIATE YOU
DOING THIS
FOR US.

BUT
I DIDN'T
DESTROY IT. I
TOLD YOU--IT
JUST BLEW
UP WHEN I
TOUCHED IT.









SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU SURVIVED-- GOOD. THAT'S ANOTHER OF MY TESTS YOU'VE SURVIVED. IMPRESSIVE.

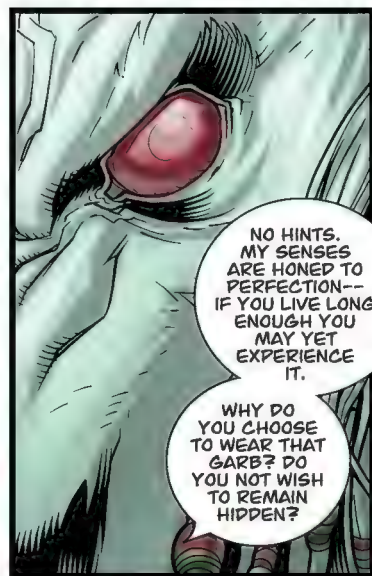
IT WASN'T EASY... BUT I MADE IT. WHAT'S NEXT? I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR ME NOW.

TONIGHT YOUR TEST WILL NOT COME FROM ME... THERE ARE OTHERS WHO CONTROL YOUR FATE THIS EVENING.

OTHERS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I CAN SENSE IT. THERE ARE MANY DANGERS IN THE FOREST TONIGHT.

RUNNUNNNNNBLE!!





NO WAY!
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?!

OF COURSE
NOT--WHY IN THE
WORLD WOULD I
HELP YOU? I DON'T
WORK FOR YOU, CECIL--
I DON'T LIKE YOU.



GET REAL HERE, KID.
YOU THINK FOR A MINUTE
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP
TONIGHT KNOWING THIS
GUY IS OUT THERE--
KNOWING WHAT
HE DID?

I KNOW
YOU TOO
WELL.



LOOK, KID--
YOU THINK WE
WANT TO ASK
FOR THIS? I
TRIED TO TAKE
THIS GUY
OUT--AND I
FAILED.

HE'S TOUGH--
BUT YOU COULD
PROBABLY GET
THIS GUY FOR US
IN AN AFTERNOON.



EXCEPT--
Y'KNOW--
I DON'T
TRUST
YOU
PEOPLE!

HAVEN'T YOU WATCHED
THE NEWS?! THIS MAN
MURDERED HIS WIFE IN
COLD BLOOD! HIS
DAUGHTER SAW THE
WHOLE THING. HE
ABANDONED HER--
RUINED HER
LIFE!

THIS MAN WAS
A BILLIONAIRE! HE
THOUGHT HE WAS
ABOVE THE LAW.
NOW HE'S OUT THERE--
ROAMING FREE,
ABLE TO KILL
AGAIN.

I COULD
SEND THE
GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE--
BUT YOU COULD
FIND HIM FASTER--
YOU COULD STOP
HIM EASIER.



JUST HELP
ME THIS
ONCE--IF YOU
DO, I'LL HAVE
MY PEOPLE
LOOK OVER THIS
ORB YOU THINK
I WAS SPYING
ON YOU WITH--
SEE IF WE CAN'T
FIND OUT WHO'S
WATCHING
YOU, AND WHY.

DEAL?

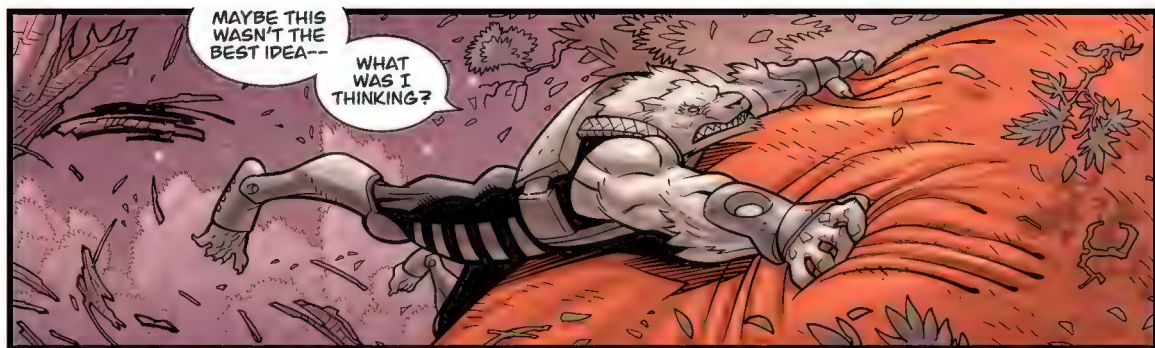


I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE
ANYONE SMARTER THAN
ROBOT ON STAFF--SO
THAT OFFER DOESN'T
MEAN MUCH.



CRAP--WE'VE GOT
A PROBLEM. THE GIANT
HAS ESCAPED AND
IS ON A RAMPAGE--HE'S
TEARING THROUGH--
WELL--THE EXACT SAME
REGION WOLF-MAN
WAS LAST SEEN.

TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE?





WHO DARES?!

I WAS A KING! I LED A KINGDOM!

WHO DARES STRIKE ME?!

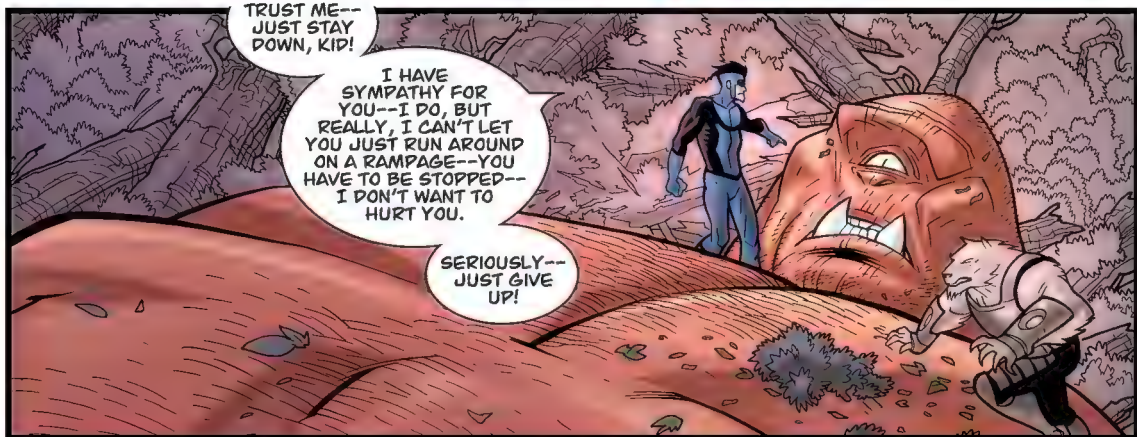
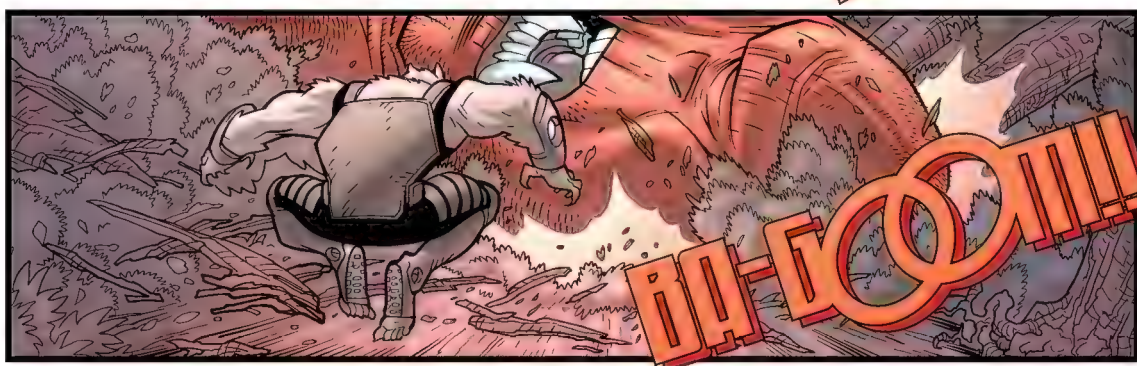
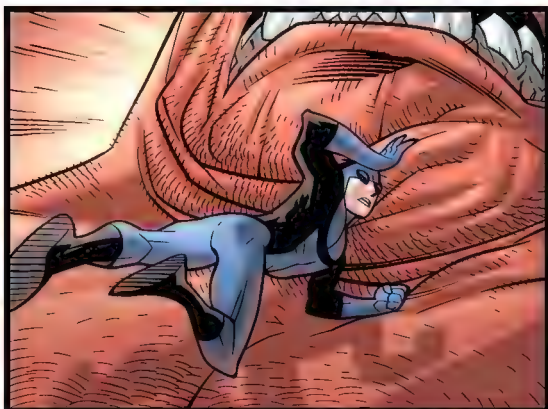
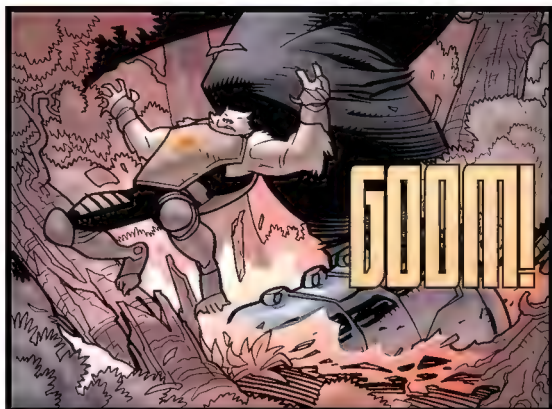
WHO?!

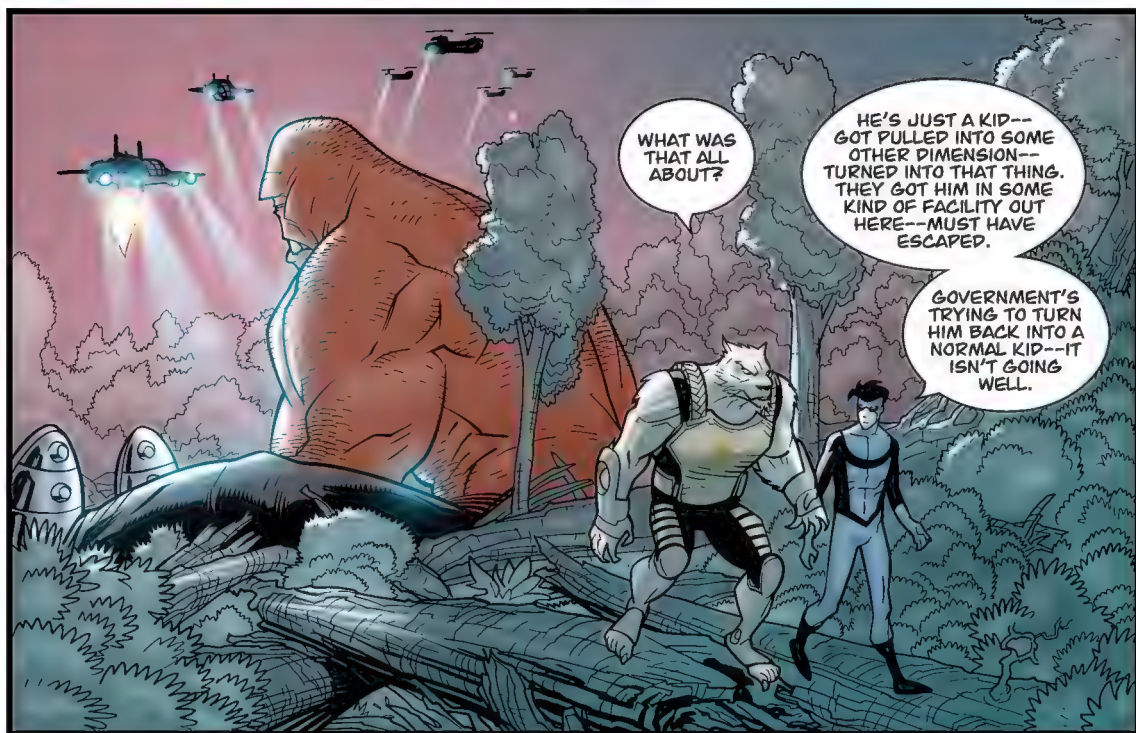
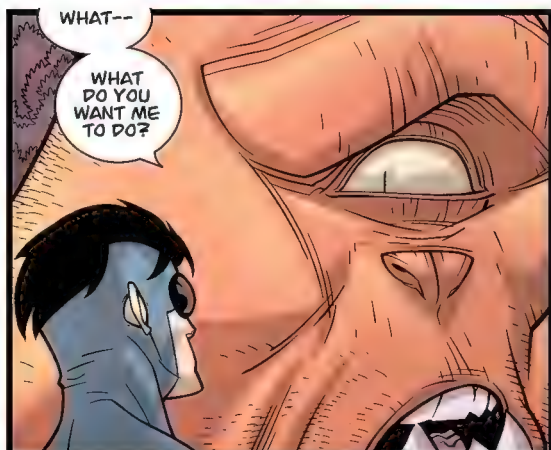
WROKKKOOOO!!!

THAT WOULD BE ME.

YOU--
IRK!!

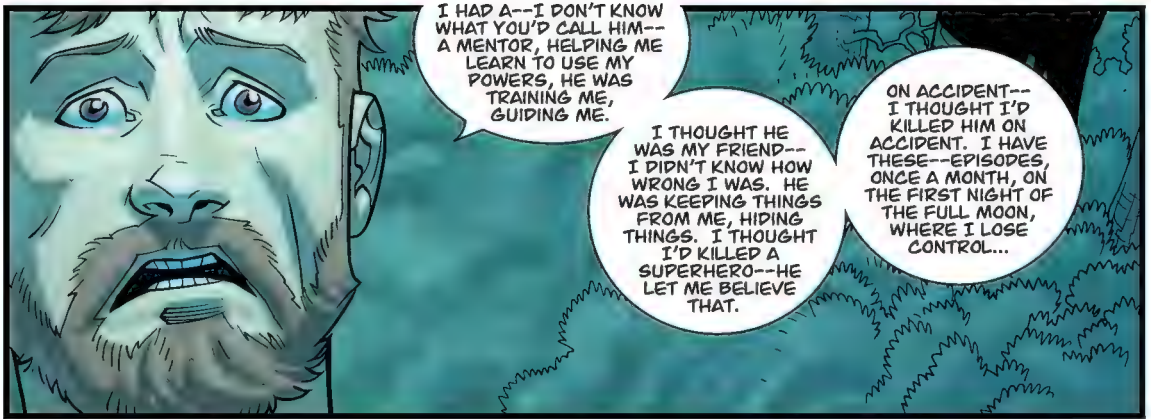
WROKK!











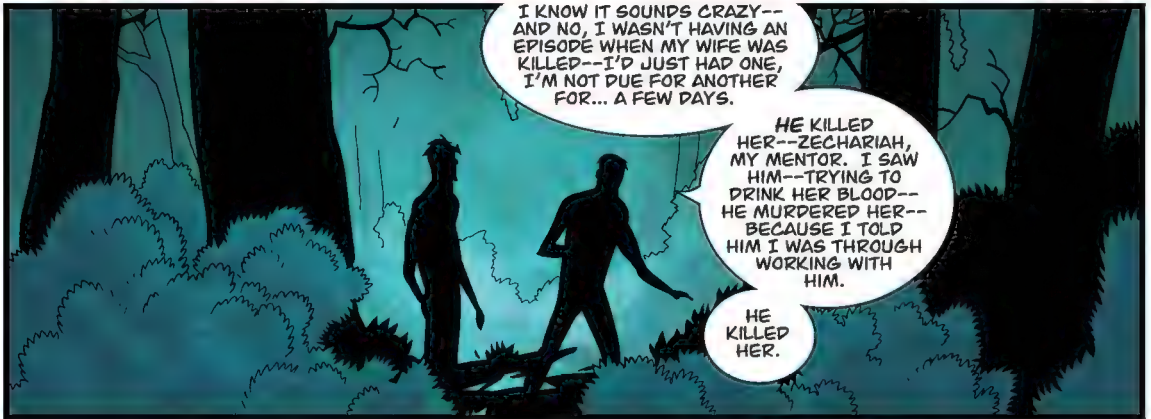
I HAD A--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'D CALL HIM-- A MENTOR, HELPING ME LEARN TO USE MY POWERS, HE WAS TRAINING ME, GUIDING ME.

I THOUGHT HE WAS MY FRIEND-- I DIDN'T KNOW HOW WRONG I WAS. HE WAS KEEPING THINGS FROM ME, HIDING THINGS. I THOUGHT I'D KILLED A SUPERHERO--HE LET ME BELIEVE THAT.

ON ACCIDENT-- I THOUGHT I'D KILLED HIM ON ACCIDENT. I HAVE THESE--EPISODES, ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, WHERE I LOSE CONTROL...



I'M LISTENING...



I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY-- AND NO, I WASN'T HAVING AN EPISODE WHEN MY WIFE WAS KILLED--I'D JUST HAD ONE, I'M NOT DUE FOR ANOTHER FOR... A FEW DAYS.

HE KILLED HER--ZECHARIAH, MY MENTOR. I SAW HIM--TRYING TO DRINK HER BLOOD-- HE MURDERED HER-- BECAUSE I TOLD HIM I WAS THROUGH WORKING WITH HIM.

HE KILLED HER.

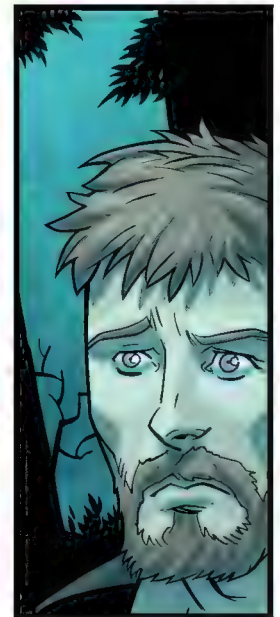
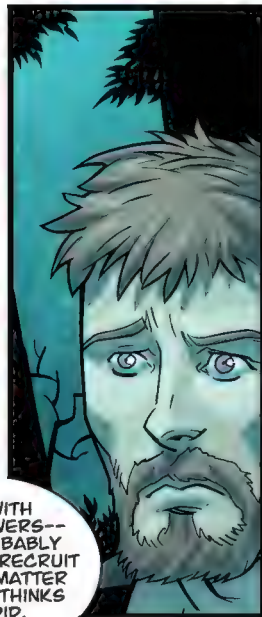


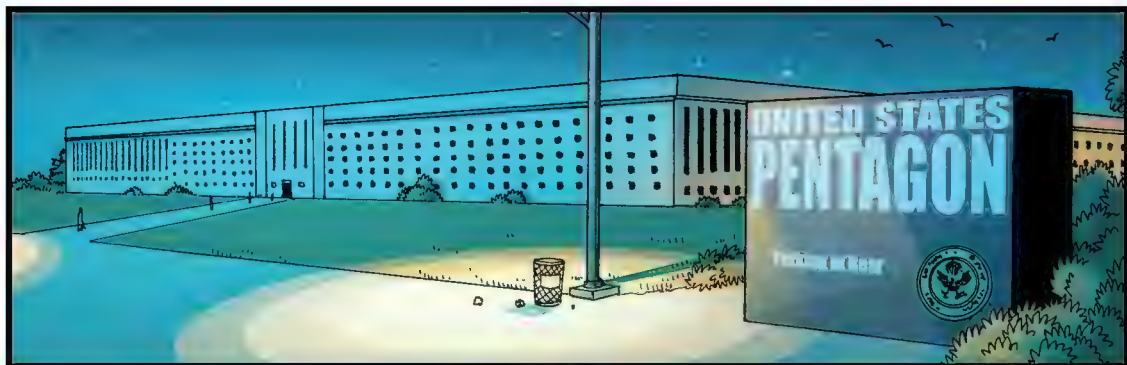
HE KILLED HER.



HE KILLED MY WIFE.

SHE'S DEAD.



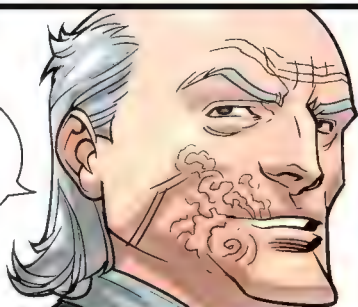


BRAVO, KID.
I KNEW YOU
COULD DO
IT.

AND--
DO MY EYES
DECEIVE ME--
YOU GOT HIM
TO DO IT--
VOLUNTARILY?

DIDN'T
EXPECT
THAT. KID'S
GOOD.

IMPRESSIVE.



THANKS,
BUT HE'S NOT
HERE TO TURN
HIMSELF IN.

HE'S
HERE TO
TALK.



THAT
WASN'T
PART OF
THE DEAL,
KID.

HE CAN
TALK TO HIS
LAWYER.
WE'RE
ARRESTING
HIM.



THEN I'M
CHANGING
THE DEAL. YOU
CAN LISTEN TO
WHAT HE HAS
TO SAY--THAT
DOESN'T HURT
ANYTHING.





AGENT HUNTER,
CAN YOU PLEASE
EXCUSE US?



GOOD LUCK,
MURDERER.



IT'S OKAY--
JUST LET
ME TALK TO
HIM.

ARE YOU TELLING
ME THAT YOU CAN
PARDON MURDERING
PSYCHOPATHS LIKE
DARKWING--BUT
YOU CAN'T EVEN
HEAR HIS
STORY?

THAT'S
INSANE.



NOTHING I CAN
DO HERE, KID. HIS
STORY'S TOO PUBLIC.
THERE'S NO WAY I
CAN HAVE HIM RUNNING
AROUND IN THE CLEAR.
EVERYONE KNOWS WHO
GARY HAMPTON IS--
THE WEREWOLF
SUPERHERO WIFE-
KILLER.

IT'S NOT
LIKE HE COULD
GO BY ANOTHER
NAME OR ANYTHING
EITHER... THE FUR
TENDS TO GIVE
HIM AWAY.

NO, SADLY--
HE'S USELESS TO
ME. I'VE GOT TO
BE PRACTICAL HERE,
INVINCIBLE. IF HE'S
GOT A STORY TO
TELL--HE CAN
TELL IT TO A
JURY.



THIS GUY
ISN'T A KILLER--
I ARRIVED TO
SEE HIM RISKING
HIS LIFE TRYING
TO SAVE PEOPLE
FROM THE GIANT--
TRUST ME--HE'S
ONE OF THE
GOOD GUYS.

I'M NOT
LETTING YOU
ARREST HIM!



I KNOW
YOU TOO
WELL.

DIDN'T
YOU WONDER
WHY I HAD
YOU MEET ME
IN THE WHITE
ROOM?



OH,
GREAT.

THIS
AGAIN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN
#11!!



11
\$2.99

KIRKMAN
HOWARD
RATHBURN
PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFEMAN



VERSUS

INVINCIBLE

PART 2 OF 2

THIS STORY CONTINUES FROM INVINCIBLE #57!

THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler

CLIFF RATHBURN
inker

RUS WOOTON
letterer

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
colorists

AUBREY SITTERSON
editor

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD
INVINCIBLE created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



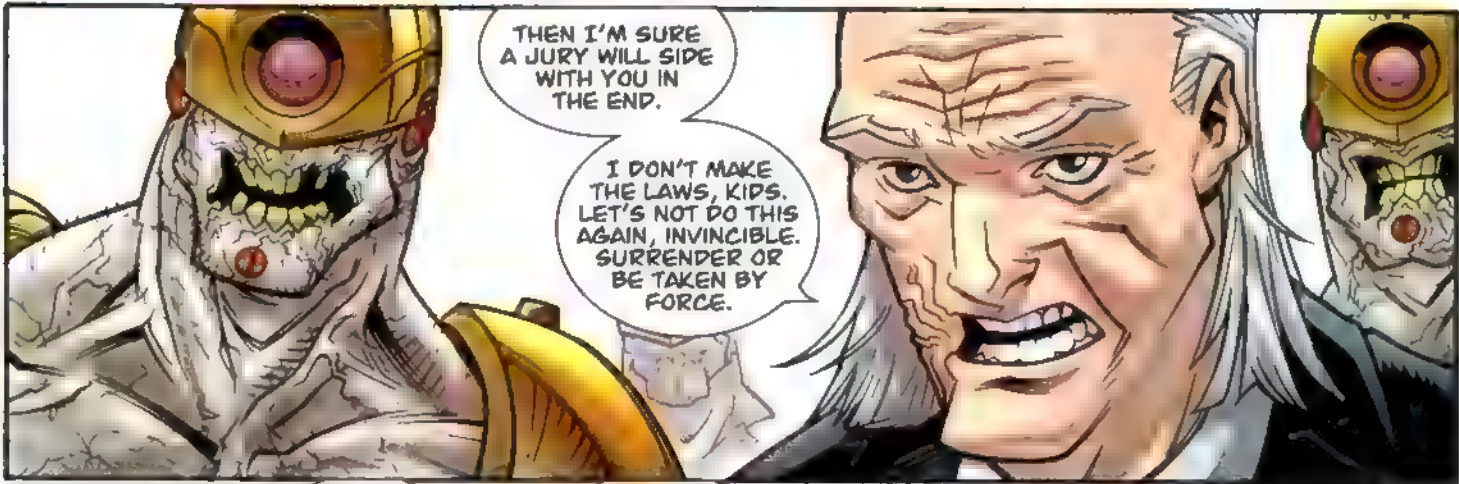
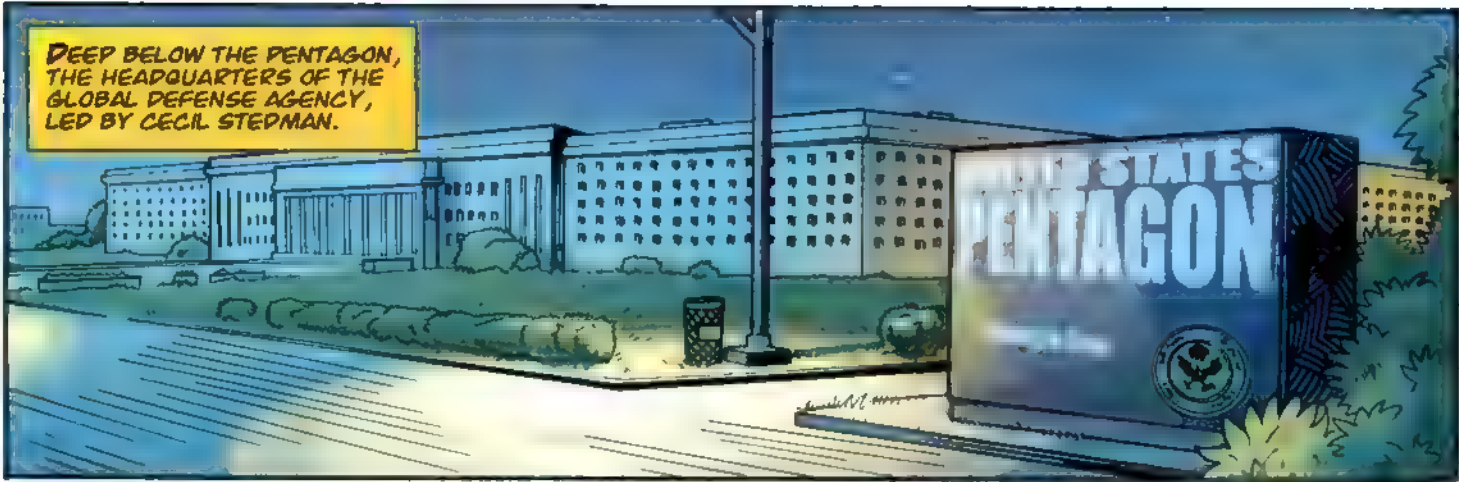
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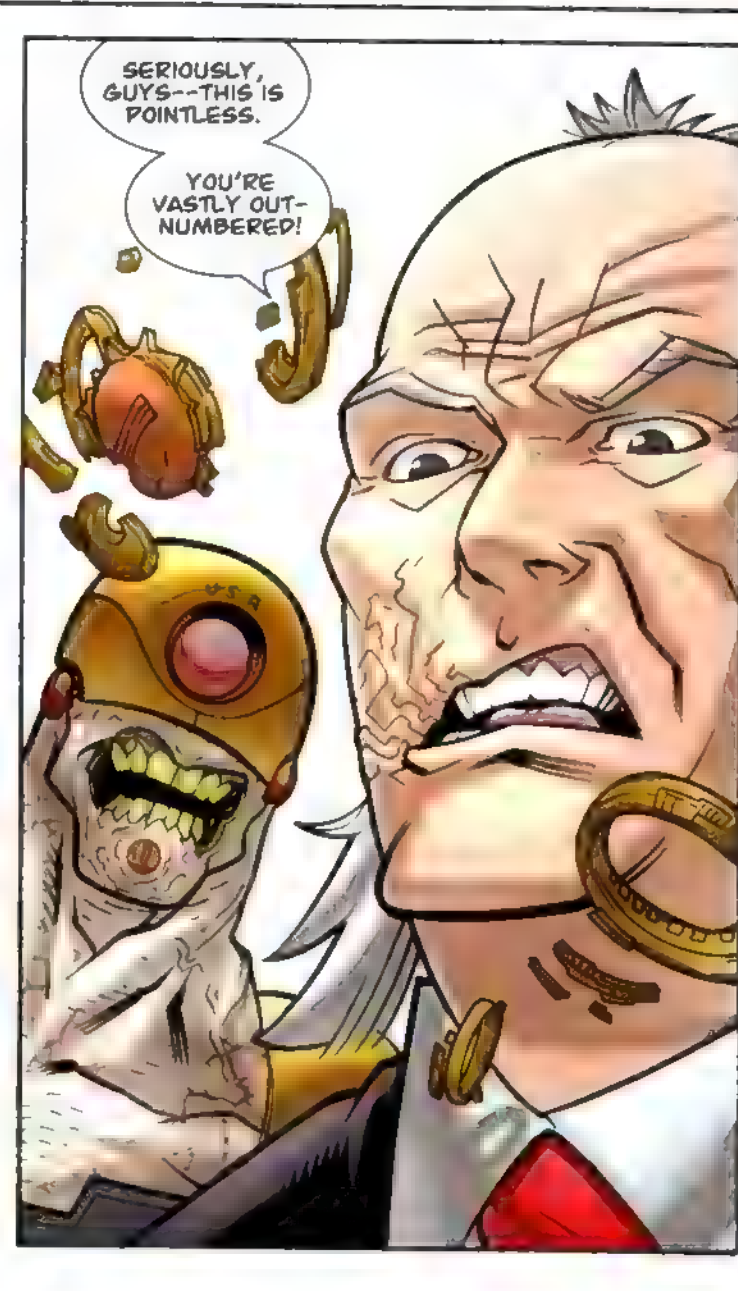
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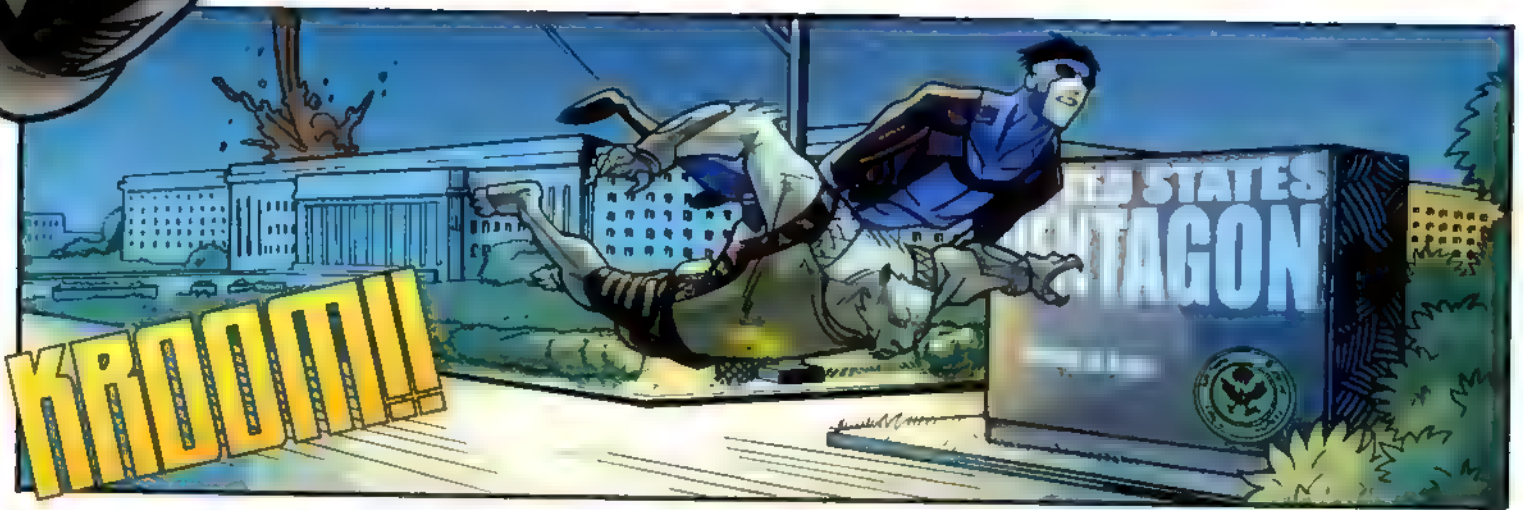
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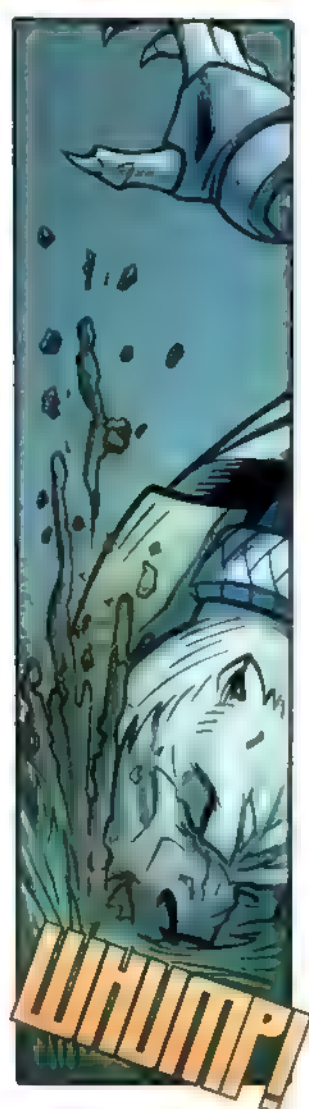
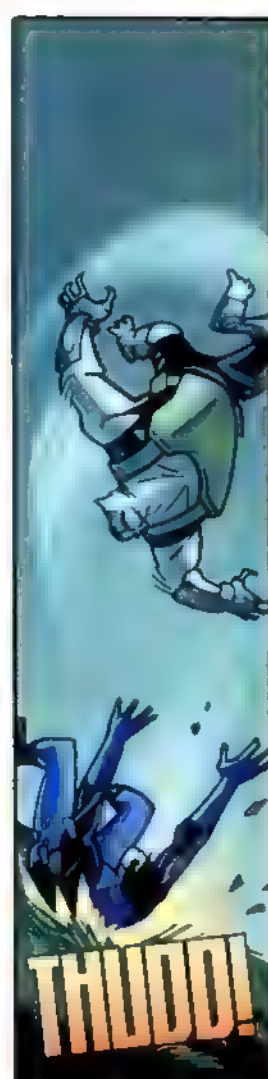
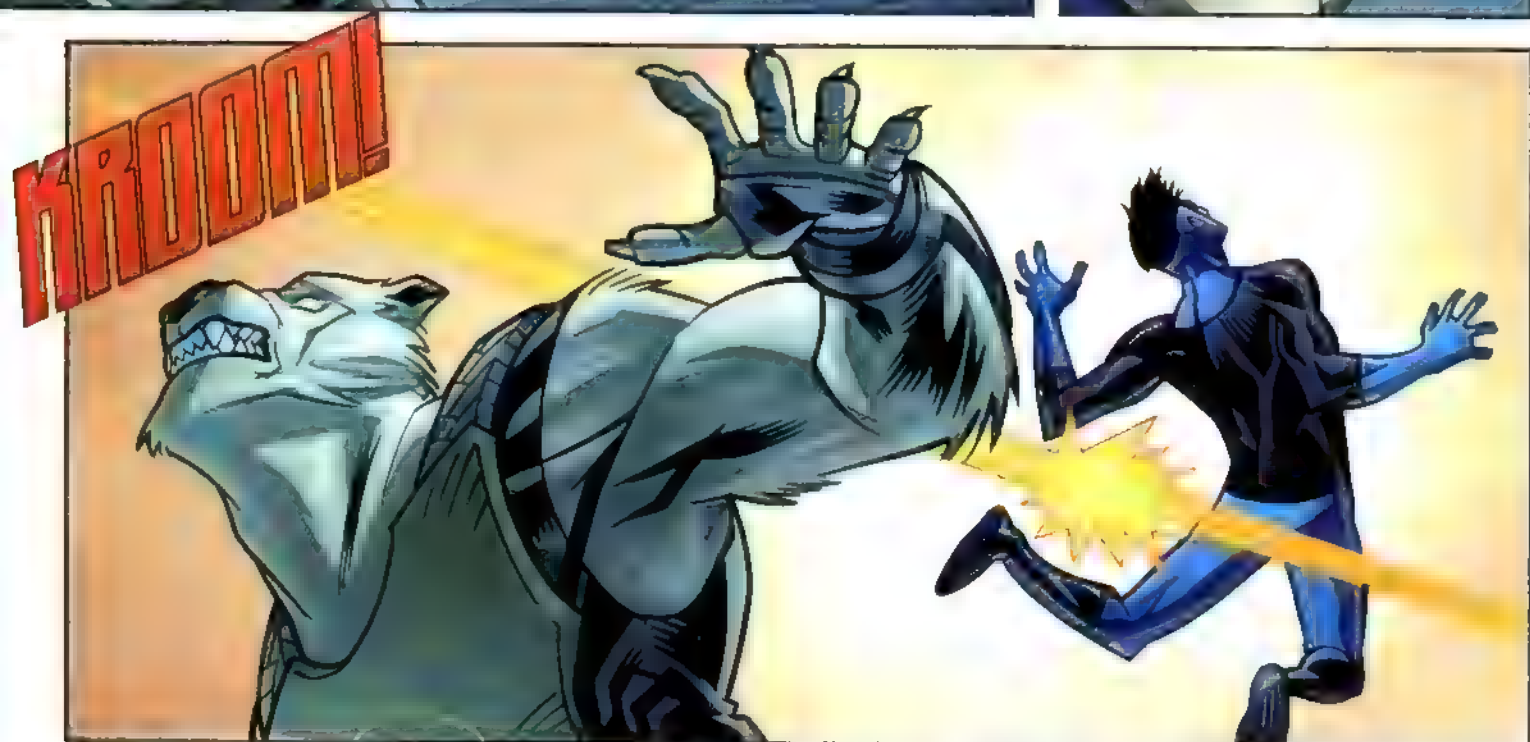
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PROTECTING A MURDERER, HUH? THAT'S SOMETHING YOU GUYS ARE AGAINST?

YOU KEEP ODD COMPANY, THEN.



MY PAST IS MY PAST-- WHY CAN'T YOU GET OVER THAT?! I WAS NOT WELL--I'M BETTER NOW.

I SEEM TO RECALL A FEW BLACK MARKS ON YOUR--



THAT ISN'T WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, MARK-- WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT YOU.



OH, REALLY?! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET US GO?

SWEET!

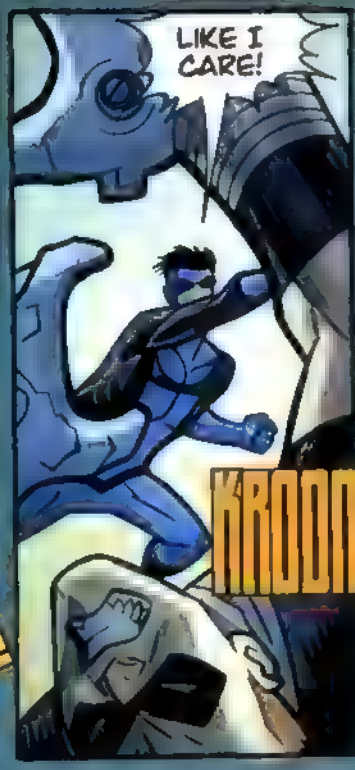
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.

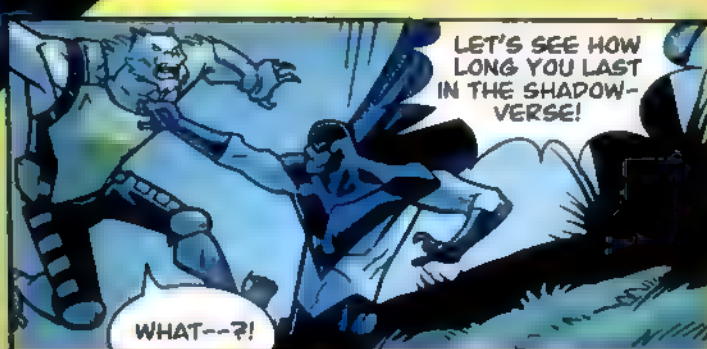
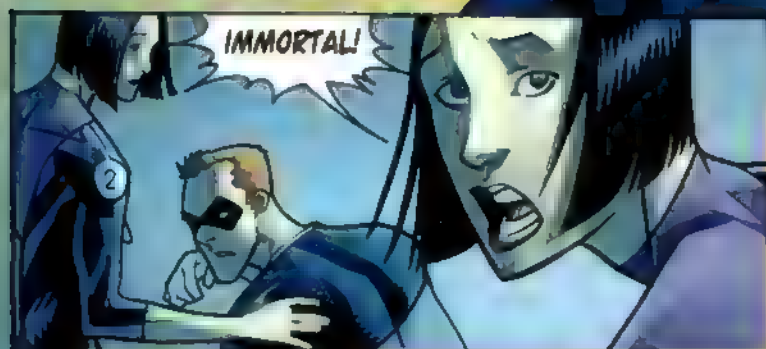
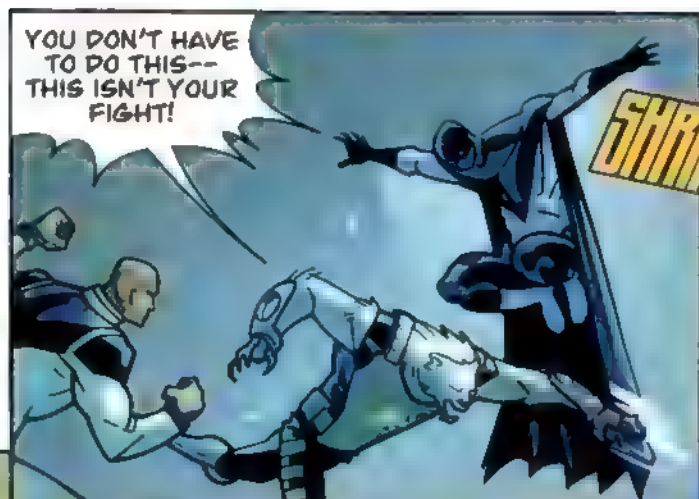


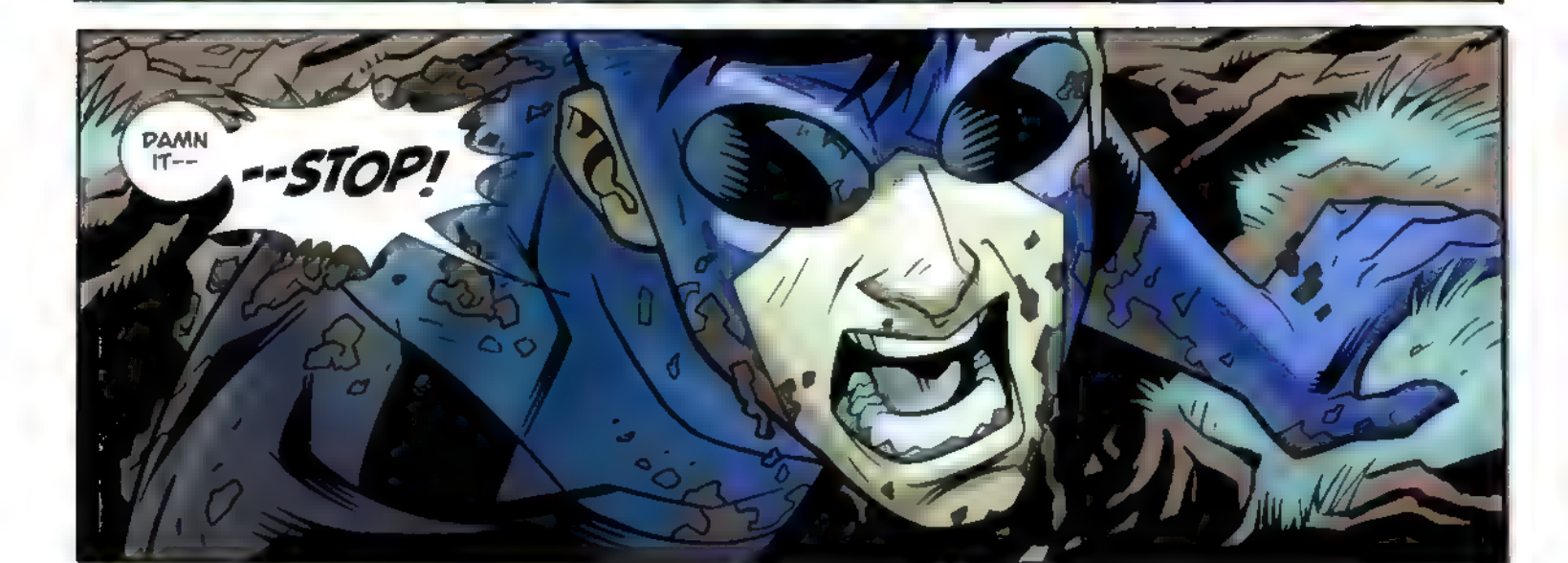
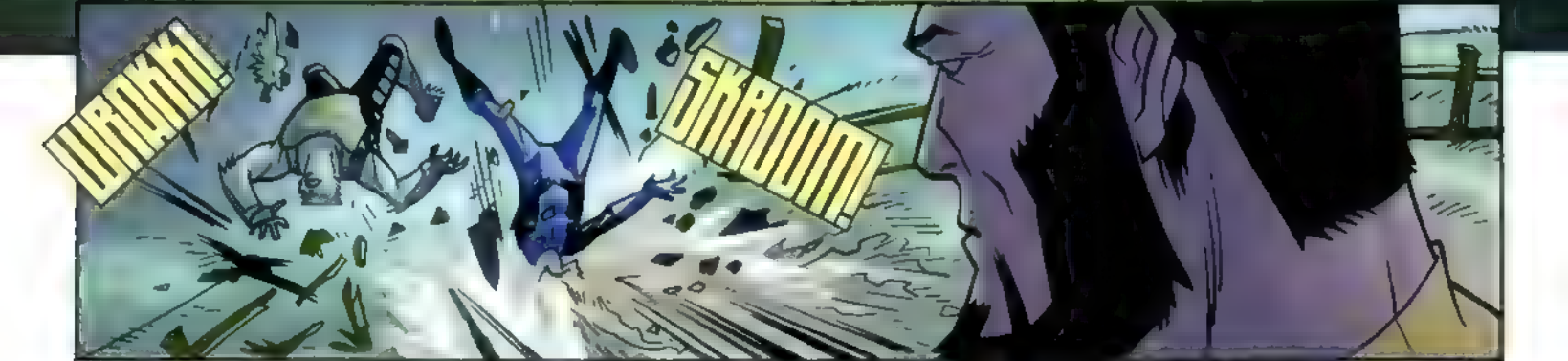
IT WASN'T.

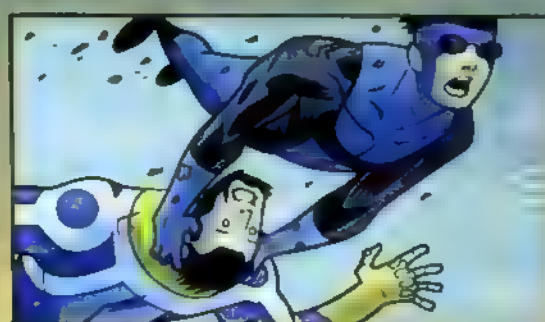


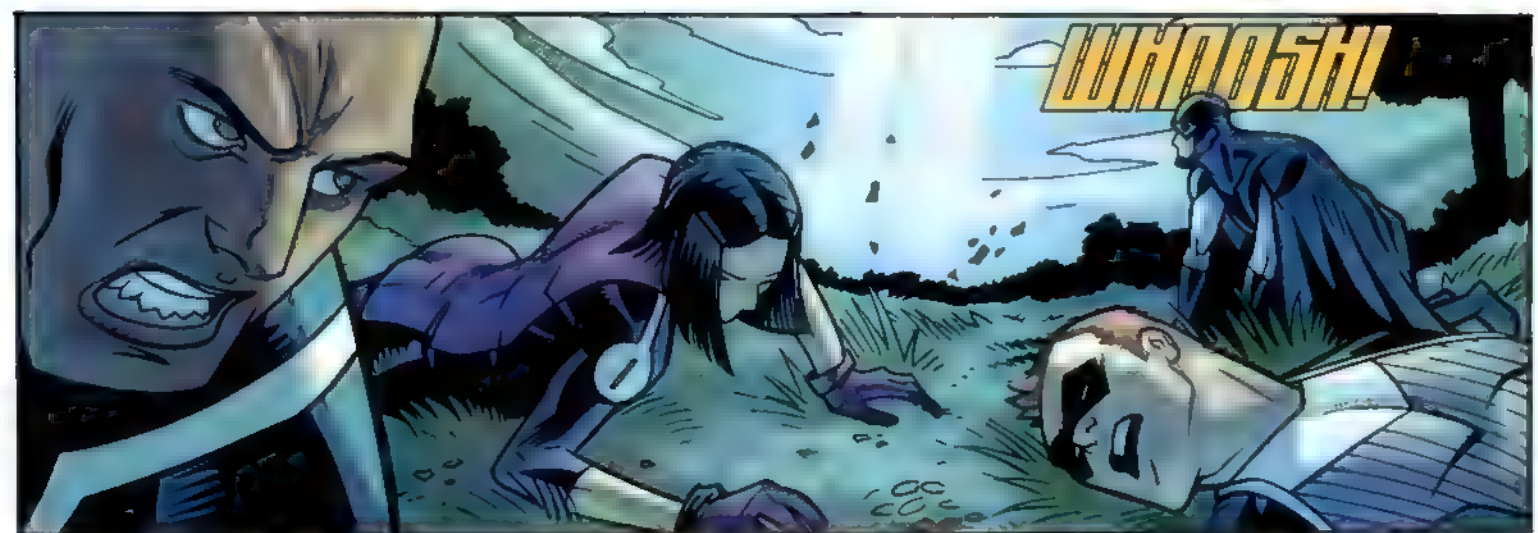
I KNOW.













COOL.
I THINK
WE LOST
THEM.

GREAT.



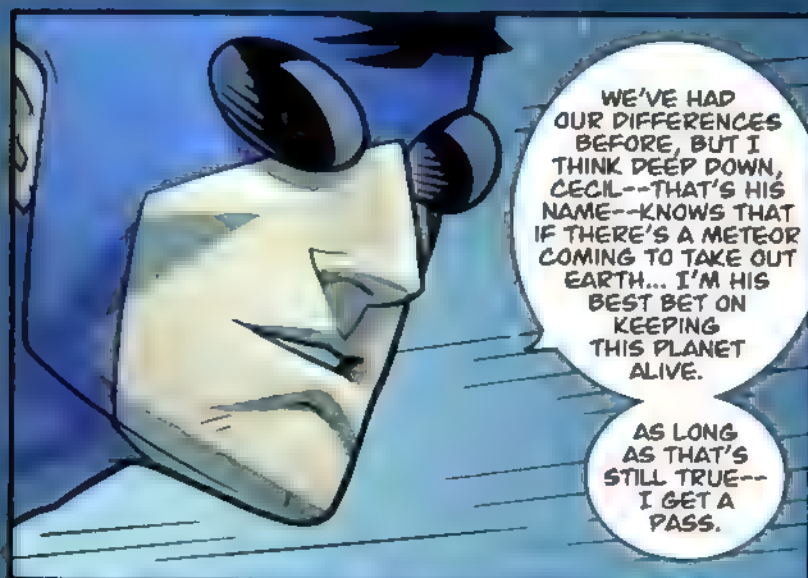
THAT TOTALLY
DID NOT WORK
OUT THE WAY I
THOUGHT IT
WOULD.

I'M
REALLY
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.



YOU
COULDN'T
HAVE PLANNED
FOR THAT--DON'T
WORRY ABOUT IT.
I JUST HOPE I
DIDN'T GET YOU IN
TROUBLE WITH
SCAR FACE
BACK
THERE.

I DON'T
WANT THEM
HUNTING
YOU DOWN
BECAUSE
OF ME.



WE'VE HAD
OUR DIFFERENCES
BEFORE, BUT I
THINK DEEP DOWN,
CECIL--THAT'S HIS
NAME--KNOWS THAT
IF THERE'S A METEOR
COMING TO TAKE OUT
EARTH... I'M HIS
BEST BET ON
KEEPING
THIS PLANET
ALIVE.

AS LONG
AS THAT'S
STILL TRUE--
I GET A
PASS.



STILL,
THANKS FOR
STICKING YOUR
NECK OUT FOR
ME--MEANS
A LOT.



DON'T
MENTION
IT.

...

SO...
WHERE
TO?

THE HAMPTON ESTATE.



WHEN SHE SAW ME HOLDING MY WIFE'S BODY... I KNEW--

I KNEW SHE THOUGHT I'D KILLED HER.



I DIED MYSELF, THAT VERY INSTANT... MY LIFE WAS OVER.

GETTING CAUGHT--WHAT THOSE PEOPLE WILL DO TO ME--NONE OF THAT SCARES ME. THAT'S NOT WHY I RAN. I NEED TIME TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT...

...TO SHOW HER SHE STILL HAS A FATHER.



AND HE'S STILL OUT THERE--THE MAN WHO DID KILL YOUR WIFE?



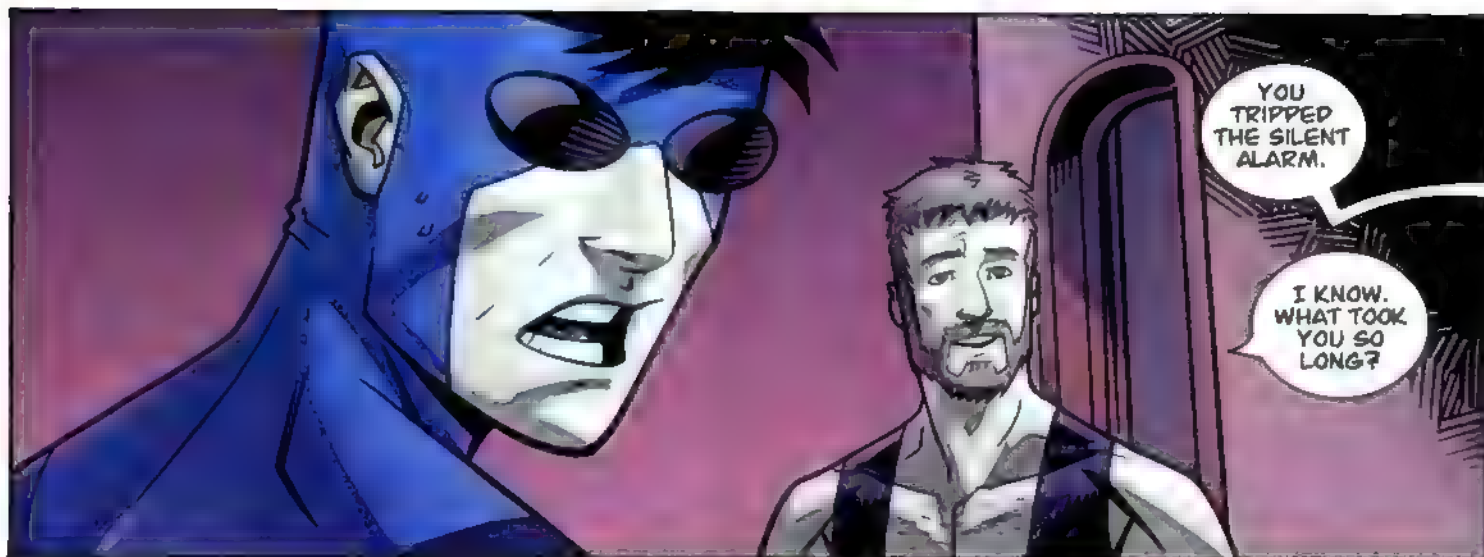
SOMEWHERE, YEAH. I DON'T KNOW WHERE.

I NEVER KNEW WHERE HE WENT WHEN WE WEREN'T WORKING TOGETHER--HE ALWAYS FOUND ME.



HE'S STILL OUT THERE.

ZECHARIAH--







NOT WELL.
SADLY.

NOT
WELL AT
ALL.



I'M TRYING TO BE
SUPPORTIVE, I KNOW
SHE'S GOING THROUGH
A LOT--BUT I WAS
NEVER CUT OUT TO BE
A PARENT. I DON'T
KNOW IF I'M DOING
WHAT SHE
NEEDS.

I'M GIVING
HER SPACE. SHE
DOESN'T SPEND A
LOT OF TIME HERE.
SHE'S STILL GOING
TO SCHOOL, BUT
HER GRADES ARE
SUFFERING.

THE SCHOOL
KNOWS THE
SITUATION--THEY'RE
BEING VERY
UNDERSTANDING.

SHE'S JUST
SO... ANGRY. SHE
DOESN'T TALK TO ME...
I'VE TRIED TO GET
HER TO OPEN UP TO
ME--BUT NOTHING
SEEMS TO WORK. I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

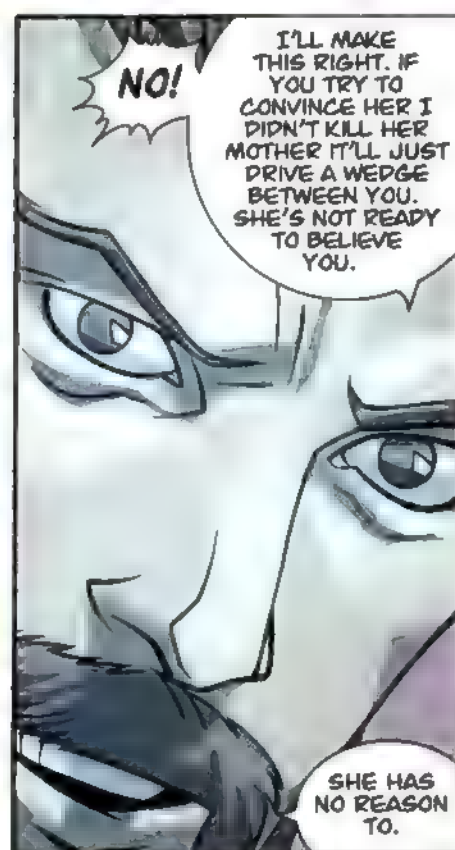


DOES
SHE THINK
I...?



SHE DOES.
SHE THINKS YOU
LOST CONTROL--
WENT INTO A
RAGE AND
REBECCA...

I HAVEN'T
TALKED TO
HER ABOUT IT--
MAYBE I
SHOULD--

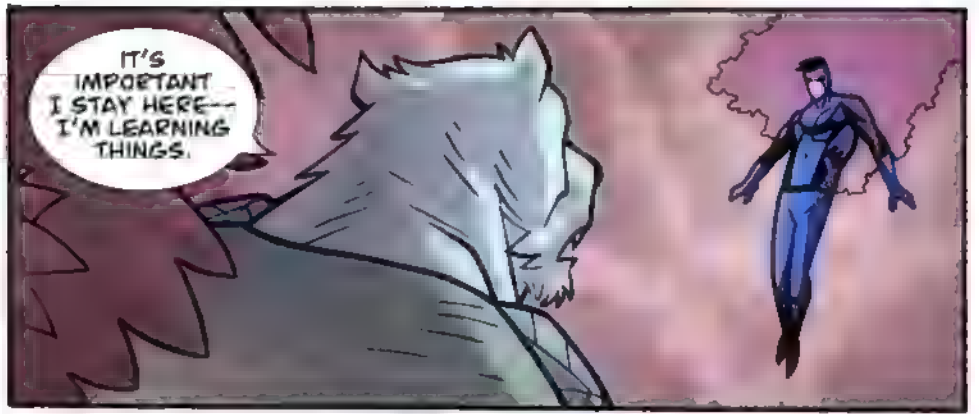
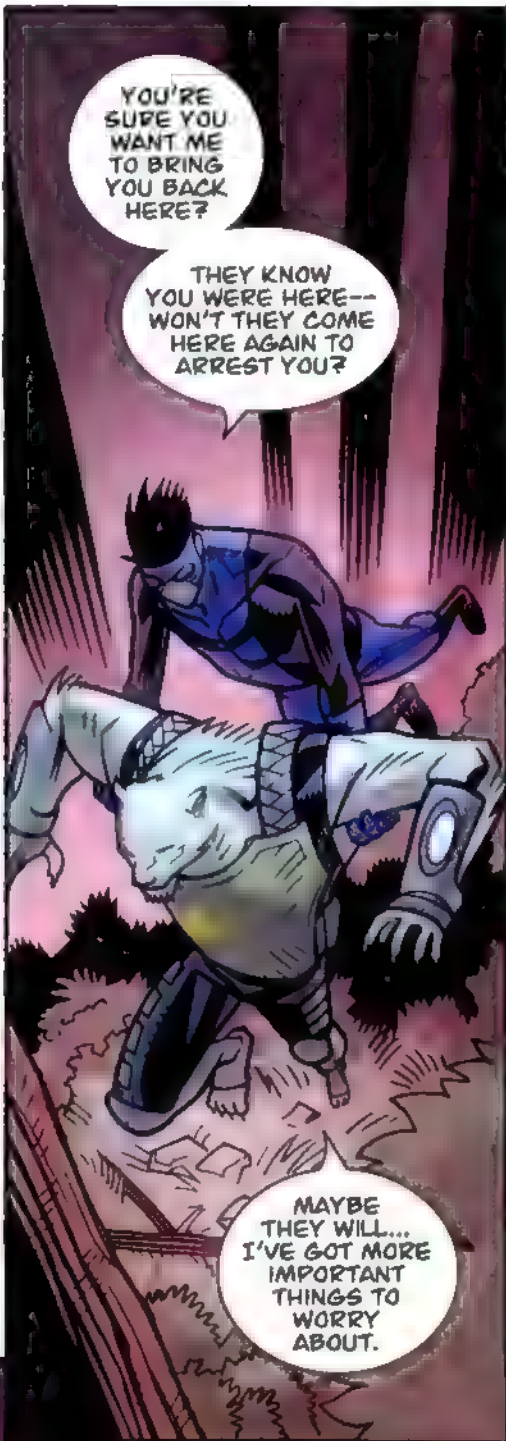


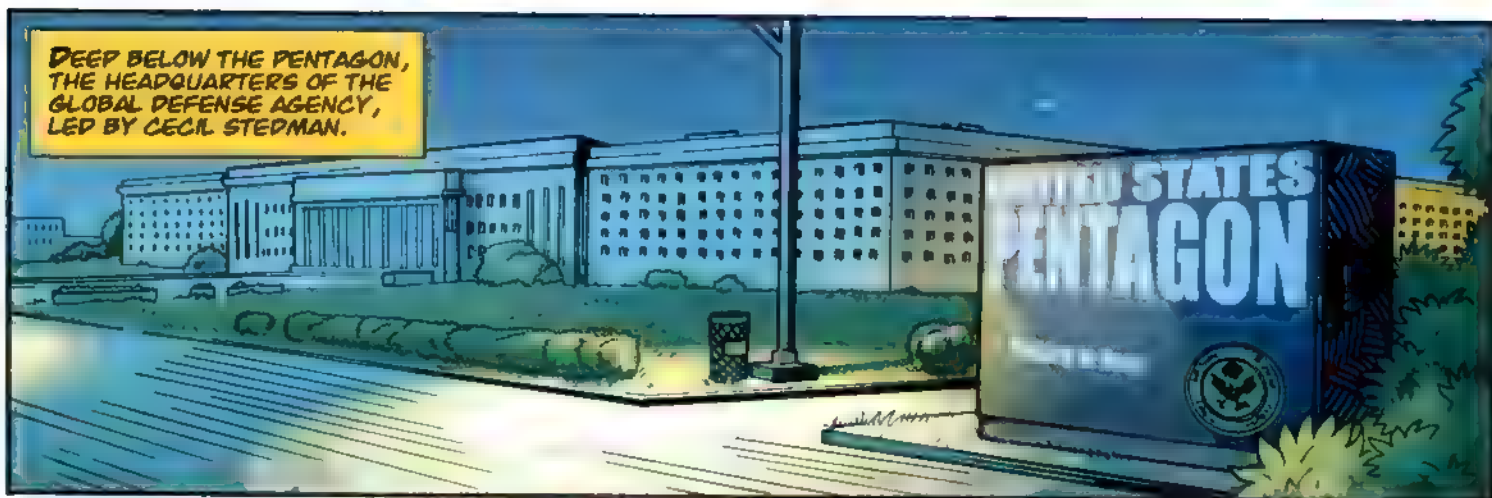
NO!

I'LL MAKE
THIS RIGHT. IF
YOU TRY TO
CONVINCE HER I
DIDN'T KILL HER
MOTHER IT'LL JUST
DRIVE A WEDGE
BETWEEN YOU.
SHE'S NOT READY
TO BELIEVE
YOU.

SHE HAS
NO REASON
TO.







DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY,
LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.



YES, IDENTITY
CONFIRMED. IT'S
GARY HAMPTON.
WE'VE GOT A
FIX ON HIS
LOCATION.

WE'RE
MONITORING ON
SATELLITES--
WE'VE GOT
A CLEAR
VIEW.



STAND BY FOR
INSTRUCTIONS.

NO.

WE KNOW
WHERE HE IS--
WE'LL KEEP
HIM UNDER
SURVEILLANCE.

I'M STILL
DECIDING WHAT
TO DO WITH HIM.
HE MAY STILL
PROVE USEFUL
TO ME...

YOU
WANT ME
TO GO
IN?

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFEMAN

image

12

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JASON HOWARD

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



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penciler, inker

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD



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JUST OUTSIDE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS--ABOUT A MILE AWAY FROM STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.



WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW, BAIT? WE KILL HER AND THEY KNOW WE GOT LOOSE BEFORE THEY GOT US IN THE PRISON. MAYBE ALARMS GO OFF IF WE BREAK HER NECK.

NAH, I'M THINKING REPORTER... SOME KIND OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF SUPER-INMATES.

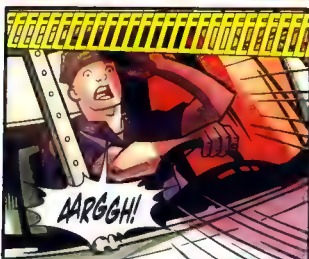
BRAVE, STUPID OR BOTH--WHAT IS IT, LADY?



I'M HERE FOR THE SAME REASON YOU ARE--I'M EVIL AND I CAN'T STOP.



WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

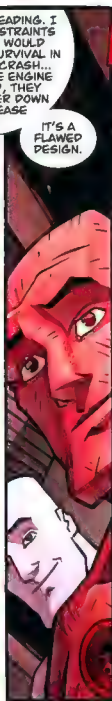
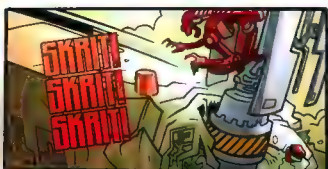


AARGGH!



SKREEECH!!

KROOOON!!



LATER THAT EVENING.

KROOO!!!

SKRAGGG!

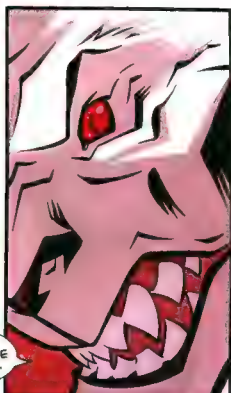
EITHER
I'M GETTING
FASTER--
OR YOU'RE
GETTING
SLOWER.

C'MON--
DON'T GO
EASY ON
ME.

WE ARE
DONE
HERE.

WHAT? WE'RE
CALLING IT A
NIGHT
ALREADY?

I'M
SHOCKED--
YOU'VE BEEN
TRAINING ME
RIGHT UP UNTIL
DAWN FOR
THE LAST
FEW DAYS.



ELSEWHERE, CONSTRUCT
THRILL-KILL AND ERUPTOR
ARRIVE AT AN UNDISCLOSED
LOCATION.



WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?

THIS IS MY
SANCTUARY--
YOU TWO ARE
THE FIRST TO
SEE WHAT I'VE
CREATED
HERE.

FEEL FREE
TO TAKE A LOOK
AROUND--BUT
DON'T TOUCH
ANYTHING. I'LL BE
IN THE MONITOR ROOM
CHECKING THE
POLICE BAND FOR
ANYTHING
ABOUT US.



WHAT THE--?! SO
ARE WE WORKING
TOGETHER NOW
AND SHE'S THE
LEADER?

WHEN
DID WE
AGREE TO
THAT?

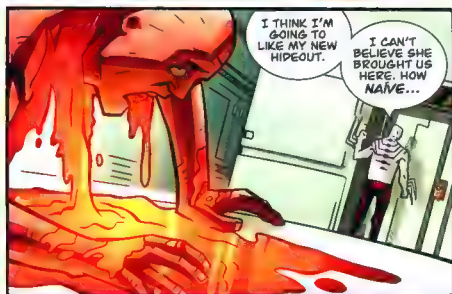


FOLLOW
ME.



HUH?







SORRY,
THIS IS
MY PLACE
NOW!

YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS.



DON'T WORRY,
LADY--I'VE
GOT YOU
COVERED!

BOOM!!



ENOUGH TO STUN
ME--BUT IT TAKES
A LOT MORE THAN
A SLASHED NECK
TO KILL ME.

WE'RE
EVEN
NOW.

HOW
SO?

YOU BROKE
ME OUT OF
THAT PRISON
TRANSPORT--
AND I SAVED
YOUR LIFE.

YOU DID
NO SUCH
THING.

THRILL-KILL,
FIGHT THROUGH
THE PAIN, STAND
UP AND ATTACK
ME. NOW.
ERUPTOR--DON'T
STOP HIM THIS
TIME.



LADY--
YOU'RE
CRAZY.



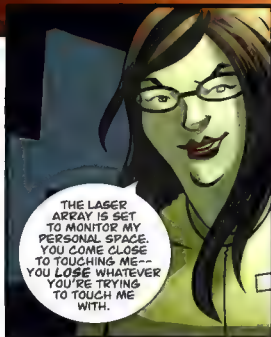
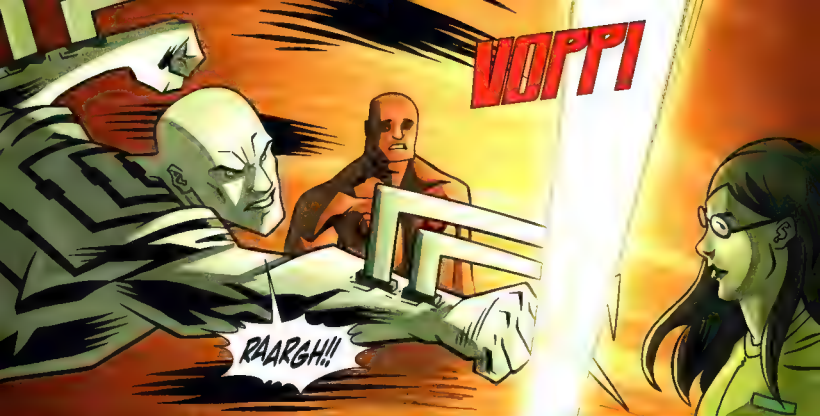
CALL ME
CONSTRUCT... MY
OTHER NAME IS
MEANINGLESS. I'M
NOT CRAZY. IF WE'RE
GOING TO STAY OUT
OF PRISON--AND
ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISH
ANYTHING, WE
SHOULD WORK
TOGETHER.

THAT'S
NOT GOING
TO HAPPEN
UNTIL YOU
RESPECT
ME.

ATTACK
ME.
NOW.



OKAY
CONSTRUCT.
YOU ASKED
FOR IT!



THE LASER
ARRAY IS SET
TO MONITOR MY
PERSONAL SPACE.
YOU COME CLOSE
TO TOUCHING ME--
YOU LOSE WHATEVER
YOU'RE TRYING
TO TOUCH ME
WITH.



YOU
BITCH! IT'LL
TAKE WEEKS
FOR THESE
TO GROW
BACK!



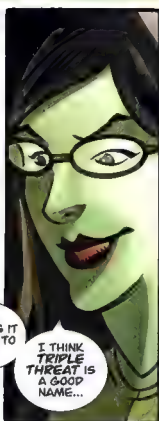
NOTHING
TOUCHES
ME HERE.

NOTHING.



NOW THAT
YOU BOTH
KNOW THE
GOLDEN RULE--
WHAT DO YOU
SAY?

WHAT WERE
YOUR GOALS
BEFORE YOU WERE
CAUGHT? MONEY?
RESPECT? DOMINANCE?
WE CAN ACCOMPLISH
THAT AND SO MUCH
MORE IF WE WORK
TOGETHER.

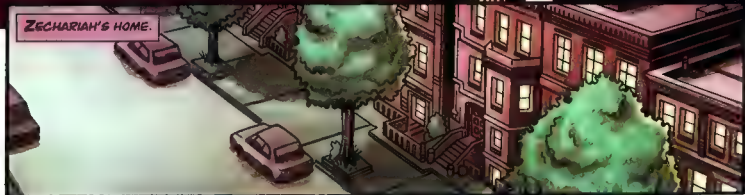


SO...
WHAT'S IT
GOING TO
BE?

I THINK
TRIPLE
THREAT IS
A GOOD
NAME...



ZECHARIAH'S HOME.



IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. I KNOW IT WOULDN'T BE EASY FOR YOU.

TRUST ME.

LURE HIM TO ME. I CAN DO IT FOR YOU... IT'LL BE EASY-- DONE.

NO.



I CAME TO YOU FOR HELP. I WANT YOU TO HELP ME AVENGE MY MOTHER'S DEATH.

I HAVE TO KILL MY FATHER. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

CHLOE, DEAR.

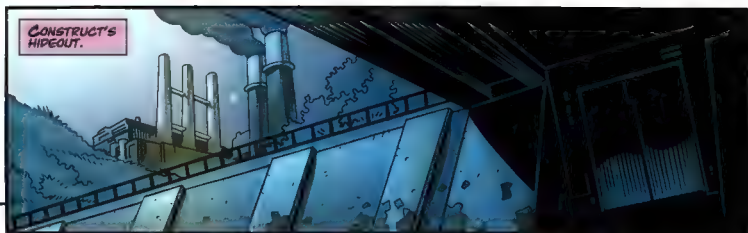
YOU'RE NOT FAST ENOUGH-- NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

I NEED TO BE FASTER.

THERE ARE WAYS I CAN DO THIS IF YOU ARE WILLING.

I NEED TO BE STRONGER.





NOT EXACT--
BUT CLOSE.
BETTER IN SOME
WAYS--MORE
DURABLE, I
THINK.

MY ROBOTIC
CONSTRUCTS
CAN BUILD OR
MAKE ALMOST
ANYTHING.
THEY'LL BE
QUITE HANDY
DURING OUR
CURRENT
ENDEAVOR.

SPEAKING OF WHICH--
I THINK WE NEED TO
DEBUT STRONG, COME
OUT ON THE SCENE WITH
A CLEAR MESSAGE--
**TRIPLE THREAT IS
NOT TO BE SCREWED
WITH.**

WE DON'T START WITH A
HEIST--WE DON'T DRAW
ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.
I SAY WE HUNT THOSE
WHO WOULD COME AFTER
US BEFORE THEY EVEN
KNOW WE EXIST.

WE'RE GOING
TO TAKE DOWN A
SUPERHERO.

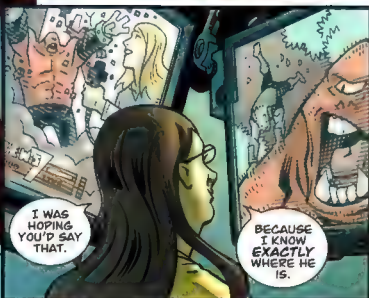
ANY
SUGGESTIONS?

YEAH...
NICE.

I'M
GLAD YOU
APPROVE.

WOLF-
MAN.

WOLF-
MAN.



I WAS
HOPING
YOU'D SAY
THAT.

BECAUSE
I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHERE HE
IS.

EXACTLY WHERE WOLFMAN IS.

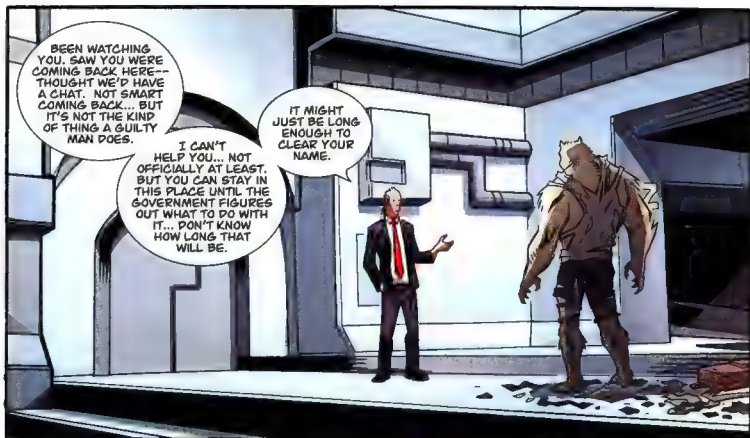
WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER

THE
GOVERNMENT
DOESN'T REALLY
KNOW WHAT TO
DO WITH IT.

THERE WAS
TALK OF SELLING
IT TO CAPES
INCORPORATED--
BUT IT'S NOT BIG
ENOUGH TO SUIT
THEIR PURPOSES.
SO THEY SAY--
THE ECONOMY
BEING WHAT
IT IS... WHO
KNOWS.

THAT WON'T BE
NECESSARY. YOU
THINK I WOULD
HAVE COME HERE
ALONE IF I CAME
TO BRING YOU
IN?

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?



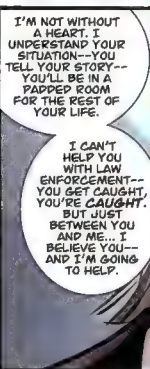
BEEN WATCHING YOU. SAW YOU WERE COMING BACK HERE-- THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A CHAT. NOT SMART COMING BACK... BUT IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING A GUILTY MAN DOES.

I CAN'T HELP YOU... NOT OFFICIALLY AT LEAST. BUT YOU CAN STAY IN THIS PLACE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT FIGURES OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT... DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT WILL BE.

IT MIGHT JUST BE LONG ENOUGH TO CLEAR YOUR NAME.



WHAT?!



I'M NOT WITHOUT A HEART. I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION-- YOU TELL YOUR STORY-- YOU'LL BE IN A PADDED ROOM FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT-- YOU GET CAUGHT, YOU'RE CAUGHT. BUT JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME... I BELIEVE YOU-- AND I'M GOING TO HELP.

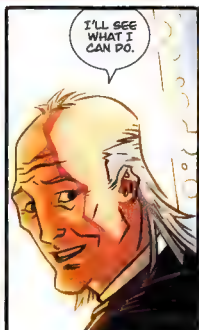


GOD HELP YOU IF I'M WRONG.

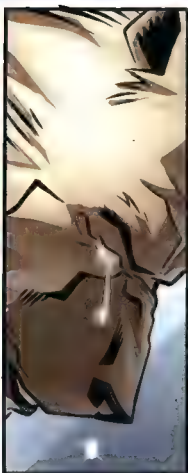
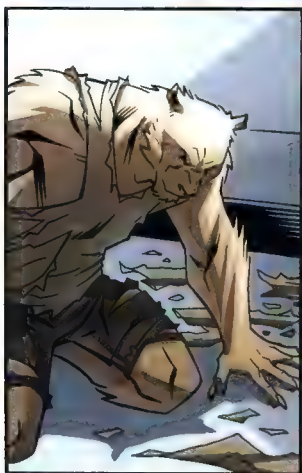
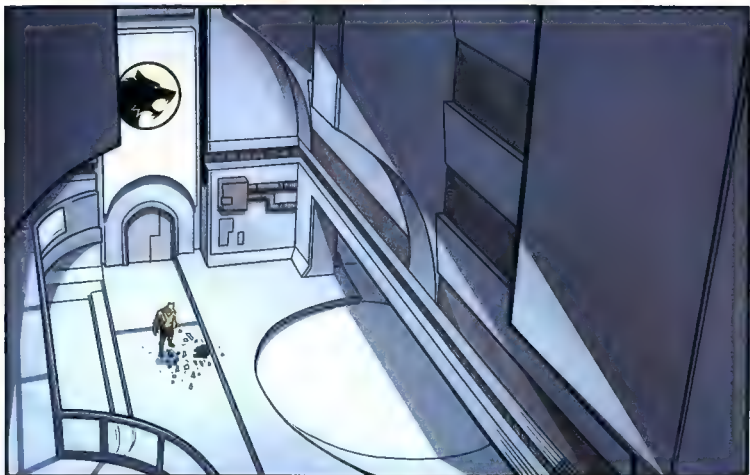


WAIT.

THERE WAS A RESTRAINT DEVICE HERE-- I'M GOING TO NEED THAT SOON. CAN YOU GET IT FOR ME?



I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.



HIGH ABOVE MONTANA.

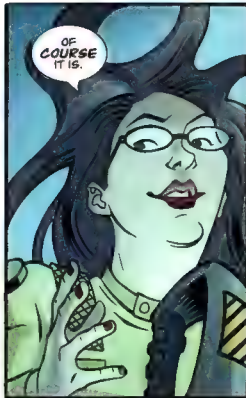
"WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?"

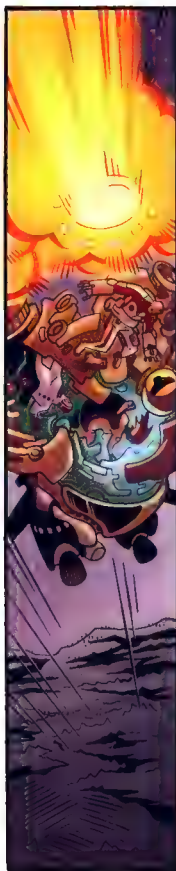
ALL THAT MATTERS
IS THAT OUR PREY
IS THERE. ANYTHING
MORE IS
UNIMPORTANT.

WHO
DIED AND
MADE YOU
LEADER?

NO ONE...
YET.

NOW SHUT
UP AND BRACE
FOR IMPACT--
WE'RE ALMOST
THERE.





CYPRESS HILL CEMETERY.



THOOM!

I'M
SORRY...

REBECCA HAMPTON
LOVING MOTHER TAKEN TOO SOON
SHE WILL BE MISSED.
1970-2008

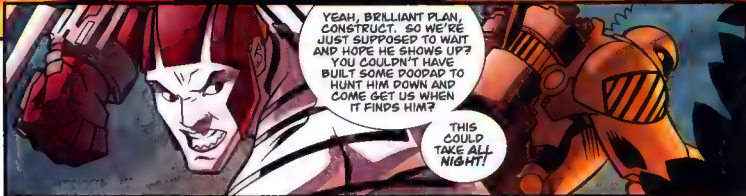
I'M SO
SORRY...

ELSEWHERE.

TOOM!

YEAH--HE'S
HERE IN THIS
FOREST--OR AT
LEAST HE WAS ON
TV. EVEN IF HE IS
STILL HERE--
HOW ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO
FIND HIM?

IF WE
MAKE ENOUGH
NOISE--HE'LL
COME TO US.
TRUST
ME.



YEAH, BRILLIANT PLAN,
CONSTRUCT. SO WE'RE
JUST SUPPOSED TO WAIT
AND HOPE HE SHOWS UP?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE
BUILT SOME DOODAD TO
HUNT HIM DOWN AND
COME GET US WHEN
IT FINDS HIM?

THIS
COULD
TAKE ALL
NIGHT!

I WOULDN'T
BE SO SURE,
THRILL-
KILL.

LOOK.

SKROOM!!!

YOU DARE
DEFACE MY
FOREST!

**THIS IS AN
OUTRAGE!**



BACK AT THE CEMETERY.

...SORRY I
LET WHAT WAS
HAPPENING TO ME
DRIVE YOU AWAY.
I'M SORRY I
DIDN'T LISTEN
TO YOU MORE...
I'M...

I'M SORRY
I RUINED OUR
LIFE... RUINED OUR
DAUGHTER'S LIFE...
SHE HAS TO GROW
UP WITHOUT US...
THAT'S JUST
NOT FAIR...

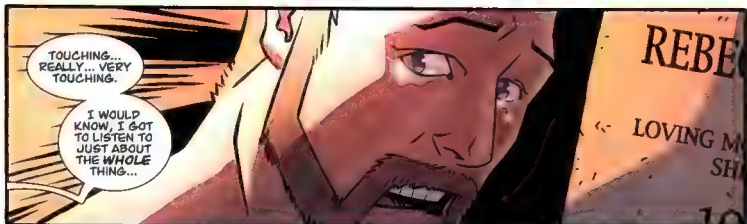


I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU'RE GONE...
I JUST...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU'RE
NOT HERE WITH
US... I'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO HOLD
YOU AGAIN...

NEVER BE
ABLE TO
TOUCH YOU...
NEVER...

I'M SO
SORRY...





...WHILE
WE WERE
WAITING FOR
THE SUN
TO COME
UP.

YOU'RE
UNDER
ARREST,
GARY
HAMPTON.

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN

Image

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



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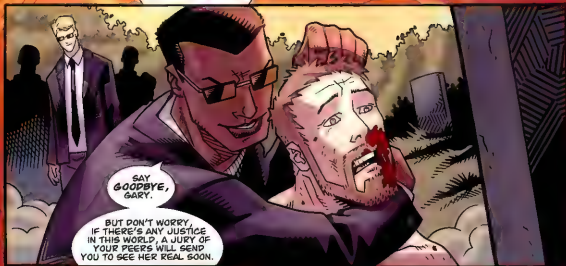






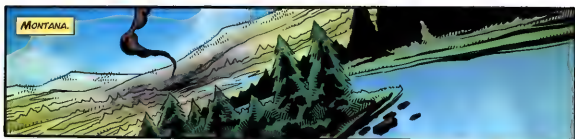


THAT WAS
A SUCKER-PUNCH
BEFORE. DID YOU
REALLY THINK YOU
COULD GET AWAY
FROM ME SO EASILY?



SAY
GOODBYE,
GARY.

BUT DON'T WORRY,
IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE
IN THIS WORLD, A JURY OF
YOUR PEERS WILL SEND
YOU TO SEE HER REAL SOON.



THE HAMPTON ESTATE.

WAKE UP, YOUNG LADY. IF YOU INSIST ON SNEAKING OUT AT NIGHT, I SEE NO REASON TO ENABLE YOU BY LETTING YOU SLEEP IN.

GET UP NOW.

OKAY, DUNFORD-- YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.

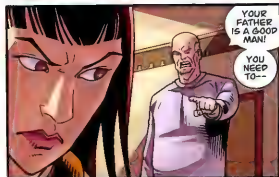
CHLOE, DEAR--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

ARE YOU HURT?

SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE.

YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER.

I DON'T HAVE A FATHER!



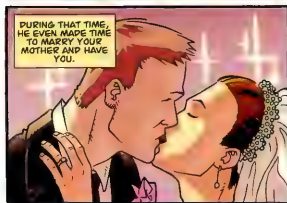




THE TWO KIDS FROM THE RECORD STORE TOOK THEIR ROYALTIES AND RETIRED. YOUR FATHER HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN.

HE INVESTED IN A SMALL SOFTWARE COMPANY AND EVENTUALLY EXPANDED AND WENT INTO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

EVERY MOVE HE MADE WORKED, EVERY STEP WAS A STEP UP. IT TOOK YOUR FATHER SIX YEARS TO BECOME A BILLIONAIRE.



DURING THAT TIME, HE EVEN MADE TIME TO MARRY YOUR MOTHER AND HAVE YOU.



YOUR FATHER HAD EVERYTHING HE'D EVER WANTED BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIS MID TWENTIES--BUT HE DIDN'T STOP.



AS HIS WEALTH GREW, SO TOO DID HIS GENEROSITY.

HE FORMED CHARITIES, FUNDED PROJECTS, BUILT HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND SHELTERS. HE TOUCHED A GREAT MANY LIVES AND IMPROVED THEM... WITHOUT A DOUBT.



YOUR FATHER TOLD ME ONCE THAT HIS WEALTH MADE HIM FEEL GUILTY--HE NEVER FELT LIKE HE DID ENOUGH, HE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO MORE.

I DON'T THINK HE'LL EVER KNOW HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE HE MADE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS...

...INCLUDING MINE.





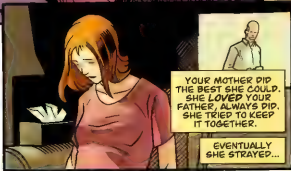
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH AND BY GOD I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE KEPT IT FROM YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOUR FATHER IS COMMITTED, DEDICATED TO HIS DUTY MOST OF THE TIME. I'D SAY HE WAS MARRIED TO HIS WORK, BUT HE WAS MARRIED TO YOUR MOTHER...

...HE JUST DIDN'T ALWAYS ACT LIKE IT.



GARY'S LATE NIGHTS JUST KEPT GETTING LATER AND LATER. THERE WERE MORE THAN A FEW NIGHTS HE DIDN'T MAKE IT HOME BEFORE THE SUN CAME UP.



YOUR MOTHER DID THE BEST SHE COULD. SHE LOVED YOUR FATHER, ALWAYS DID. SHE TRIED TO KEEP IT TOGETHER.

EVENTUALLY SHE STRAYED...



HIS NAME WAS NATHAN SINGLETON. HE WAS A FRIENDLY COMPETITOR WITH YOUR FATHER. NECK AND NECK IN MARKET SHARE--SINGLETON'S COMPANY WAS THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO HAMPTON INDUSTRIES.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY REBECCA DID IT. THERE WAS NOTHING MALICIOUS ABOUT IT. SHE LOVED YOUR FATHER--HE MEANT THE WORLD TO HER.



SHE WAS JUST LONELY. VERY LONELY.

WHEN PEOPLE GET THAT LONELY, THEY SOMETIMES GET DESPERATE... DESPERATE FOR ANY KIND OF HUMAN CONTACT.

NATHAN SINGLETON WAS VERY KIND.



THINGS CAME OUT IN CONVERSATION,
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF HAMPTON
INDUSTRIES... PLANS THAT NATHAN
SINGLETON SHOULD NEVER
HAVE KNOWN.

IT ALMOST RUINED YOUR
FATHER--BUT THAT WASN'T
THE PART HE WAS UPSET
ABOUT... IT WAS THE BETRAYAL
THAT HURT HIM THE MOST.

YOUR FATHER WAS
DEVASTATED.



THE TRIP TO MONTANA WAS
AN ATTEMPT TO RECONNECT.
YOUR FATHER FORGAVE YOUR
MOTHER--THEY DECIDED TO
TRY AND STAY TOGETHER.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENED THERE--I THINK
YOUR MOTHER'S PAST
TRANSGRESSIONS WERE THE
LEAST OF THEIR WORRIES.



YOUR FATHER IS A KIND SOUL--
I THINK ALL HE'S EVER REALLY
WANTED TO DO IS HELP
PEOPLE.

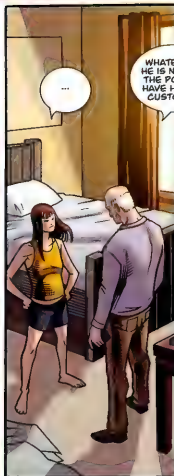
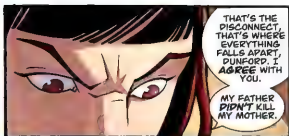
THINK ABOUT
IT, HE WAS CURSED
WITH THE TERRIBLE
BURDEN OF BECOMING
THAT MONSTER--
OF LOSING HIS
HUMANITY.

THE FIRST
THING HE THOUGHT
TO DO WAS USE THIS
CURSE TO HELP
OTHERS.



MAYBE THAT WAS THE FLAW
THAT RUINED EVERYTHING.
MAYBE HIS DESIRE TO HELP
OTHERS BLINDED HIM TO THE
VERY REAL DANGERS OF
HIS SITUATION.

I DON'T KNOW--BUT I DO
KNOW THAT YOUR FATHER
SAVED MANY, MANY LIVES,
MINE INCLUDED, BEFORE HE
EVER BECAME A SUPERHERO.







I CAN'T HELP YOU ANYMORE. NOT IN ANY KIND OF REAL WAY. I'M VERY SORRY. I DO BELIEVE YOU--BUT THIS IS OUT OF MY HANDS. THE PUBLIC CATCHES WIND OF YOU OUT SCOTT FREE AND I'M **SCREWED**. THAT'S HEAT I DON'T NEED.

SO YOU HAVE TO HANDLE THIS ON YOUR OWN.

ANYTHING OPENS UP ON MY END, ANY WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY I FIND--AND I'LL USE IT... BUT UNTIL THEN, MY HANDS ARE TIED.

FINE. I WILL HIRE THE BEST LAWYER I CAN. I'LL TELL THEM THE TRUTH AND LET THEM DECIDE IF THAT WILL HELP ME IN COURT.

I KNOW I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE--BUT I DID BRING THE CRAZY SON OF A BITCH WHO DID INTO HER LIFE. I'M NOT WITHOUT BLAME, NOT ABOVE PUNISHMENT.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE GETS TO WALK. WILL YOU HELP ME AT ALL BY LOOKING FOR HIM?



THAT MUCH I CAN DO, YES. I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO LOCATE THIS ZACHARIAH PERSON YOU'VE MENTIONED.

I PROMISE.

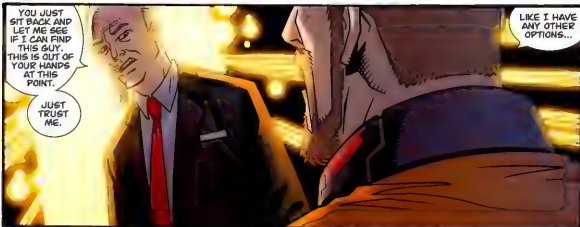


ANY IDEA WHAT THE HELL THIS THING IS OR WHAT IT DOES?



THAT'S NEW, A RESTRAINING COLLAR. SOMETHING THEY'RE HOPING WILL BLOCK YOUR ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO WOLF-MAN.

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND JUST DON'T TEST IT. IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE YOU'LL JUST LOOK GUILTY.



YOU JUST SIT BACK AND LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND THIS GUY. THIS IS OUT OF YOUR HANDS AT THIS POINT.

JUST TRUST ME.

LIKE I HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS...



WELL, THE TRIAL IS OVER-- I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER END.

IT'S NOT FAIR! NOW IT WILL BE TWICE AS HARD TO GET TO HIM!

FRET NOT, CHLOE, DEAR. HE'S NOT OUT OF REACH-- STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY IS NOT THE MOST SECURE FACILITY-- THERE ARE FREQUENT ESCAPES.

GOOD, YOUR SKILLS HAVE GROWN TEN-FOLD IN THESE LAST FEW MONTHS--VERY IMPRESSIVE.

I WANT HIM OUT OF THERE. I WANT YOU TO BREAK MY FATHER FREE FROM HIS PRISON...

...SO I CAN KILL HIM MYSELF!

THIS WORKOUT'S GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU--YOU'RE USUALLY FASTER. YOU SHOULDN'T BE GETTING TIRED SO EASILY.

COME HERE.





THERE.

ALL
BETTER.



THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFEMAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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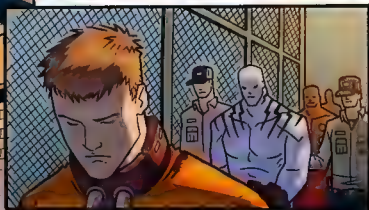
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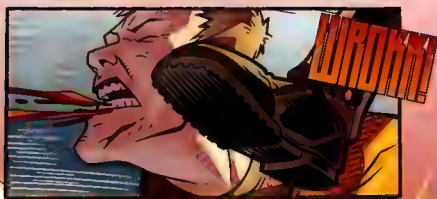


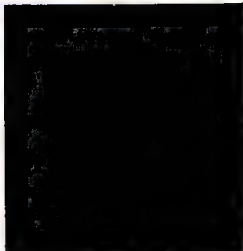
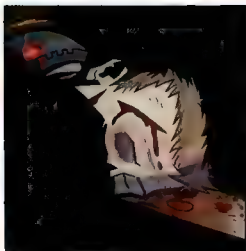
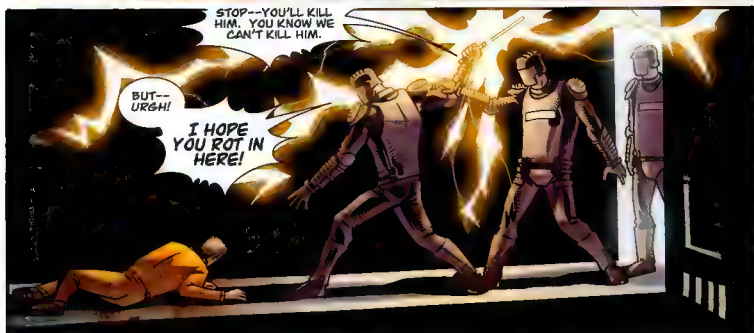














I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU. ANYTHING YOU REPORT COULD JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR YOU HERE. THIS PLACE CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.

YOU'RE CLASSIFIED AS SUPERHUMAN. GUARDS CAN GET AWAY WITH A LOT WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR KIND. THE TOP BRASS TURNS A BLIND EYE TO ANYTHING THAT KEEPS YOU IN LINE.

ALSO, THE WARDEN DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF PULL HERE. HE COULDN'T HELP YOU. HE BARELY RUNS THE PLACE. I'VE BEEN SENT TO TAKE YOU TO THE MAN WHO DOES.





BRING HIM TO ME.

YOU'VE DONE WELL, ANDERSON.

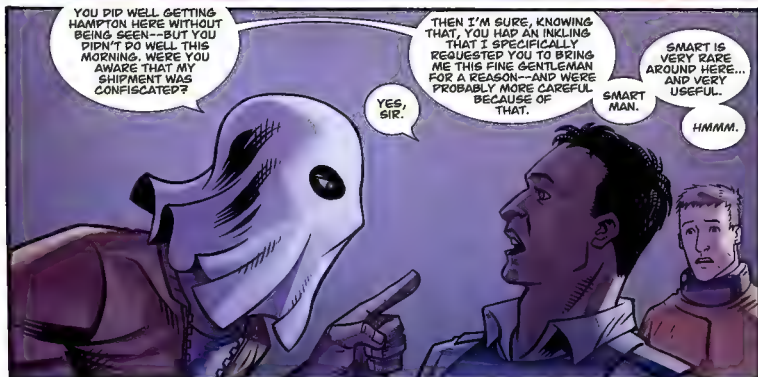
THANK YOU, SIR.



IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, MISTER HAMPTON. ALTHOUGH, I DO HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, THERE'S ANOTHER MATTER I MUST TAKE CARE OF BEFORE I GET TO YOU.

YES, SIR.

ANDERSON, STEP FORWARD.



YOU DID WELL GETTING HAMPTON HERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN--BUT YOU DIDN'T DO WELL THIS MORNING. WERE YOU AWARE THAT MY SHIPMENT WAS CONFISCATED?

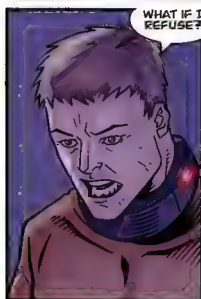
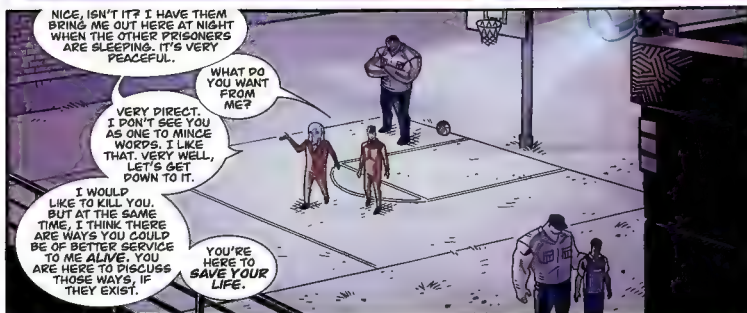
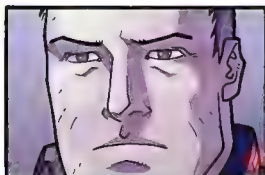
YES, SIR.

THEN I'M SURE, KNOWING THAT, YOU HAD AN INKLING THAT I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED YOU TO BRING ME THIS FINE GENTLEMAN FOR A REASON--AND WERE PROBABLY MORE CAREFUL BECAUSE OF THAT.

SMART MAN.

SMART IS VERY RARE AROUND HERE... AND VERY USEFUL.

HMMM.

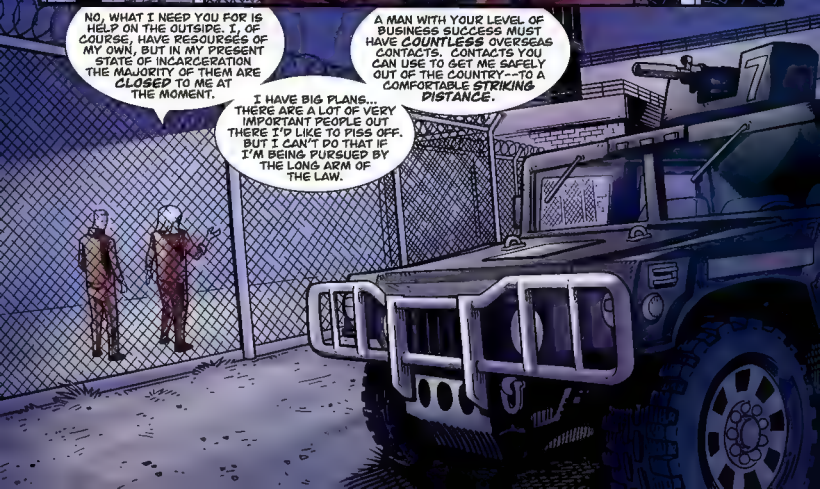


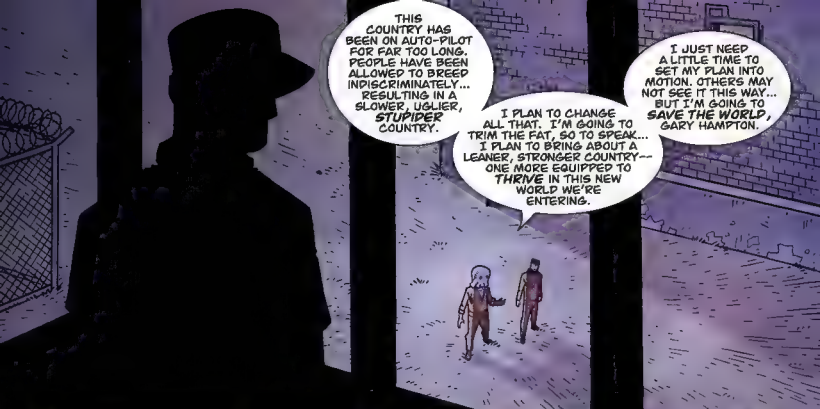


NO, WHAT I NEED YOU FOR IS HELP ON THE OUTSIDE. I, OF COURSE, HAVE RESOURCES OF MY OWN, BUT IN MY PRESENT STATE OF INCARCERATION THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE CLOSED TO ME AT THE MOMENT.

I HAVE BIG PLANS... THERE ARE A LOT OF VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE OUT THERE I'D LIKE TO PISS OFF. BUT I CAN'T DO THAT IF I'M BEING PURSUED BY THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW.

A MAN WITH YOUR LEVEL OF BUSINESS SUCCESS MUST HAVE COUNTLESS OVERSEAS CONTACTS. CONTACTS YOU CAN USE TO GET ME SAFELY OUT OF THE COUNTRY--TO A COMFORTABLE STRIKING DISTANCE.





THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN ON AUTO-PILOT FOR FAR TOO LONG. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO BREED INDISCRIMINATELY... RESULTING IN A SLOWER, UGLIER, STUPIDER COUNTRY.

I PLAN TO CHANGE ALL THAT. I'M GOING TO TRIM THE FAT, SO TO SPEAK... I PLAN TO BRING ABOUT A LEANER, STRONGER COUNTRY-- ONE MORE EQUIPPED TO THRIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD WE'RE ENTERING.

I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME TO SET MY PLAN INTO MOTION. OTHERS MAY NOT SEE IT THIS WAY... BUT I'M GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD, GARY HAMPTON.

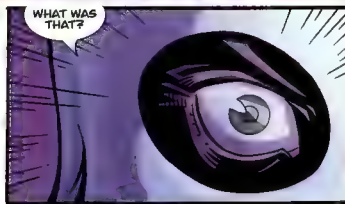


IF YOU'RE WONDERING, I FEEL COMPLETELY SECURE IN TELLING YOU ALL THIS BECAUSE I'M CERTAIN THAT IF YOU DON'T SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME **RIGHT NOW...** YOU WON'T SURVIVE TWO MORE DAYS.

THE GUARDS HATE YOU AS MUCH AS THE PRISONERS. I'D BE SURPRISED IF YOU MADE IT TO THE MORNING.



I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.



WHAT WAS THAT?



YOU HEARD ME.

NOW TAKE ME BACK INSIDE.



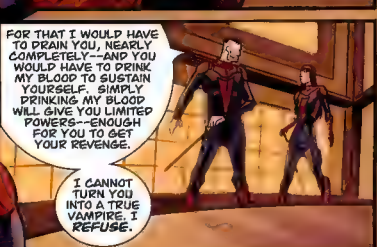
THE UNASSUMING
TOWNHOUSE HOME
OF ZECHARIAH.



THAT'S
ENOUGH...
ANYTHING MORE
WOULD WEAKEN
ME TOO MUCH
TO TRAIN
YOU.



HOW MUCH
MORE WOULD
IT BE TO
MAKE ME A
VAMPIRE?



FOR THAT I WOULD HAVE
TO DRAIN YOU, NEARLY
COMPLETELY--AND YOU
WOULD HAVE TO DRINK
MY BLOOD TO SUSTAIN
YOURSELF. SIMPLY
DRINKING MY BLOOD
WILL GIVE YOU LIMITED
POWERS--ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO GET
YOUR REVENGE.

I CANNOT
TURN YOU
INTO A TRUE
VAMPIRE. I
REFUSE.



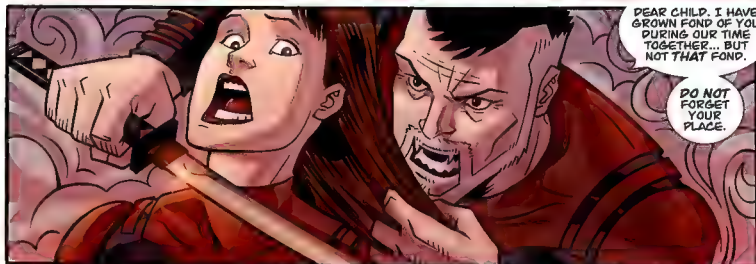
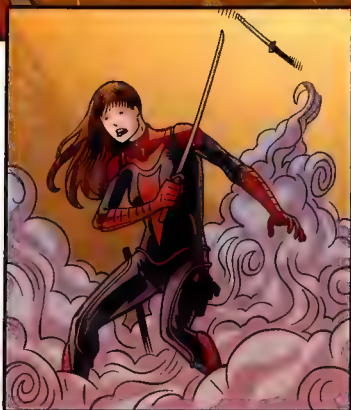
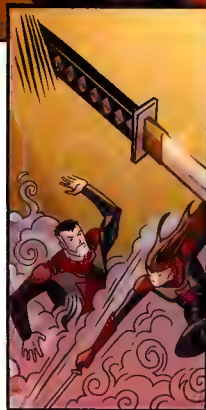
WOULD I
NOT BE MORE
POWERFUL AS
A VAMPIRE?

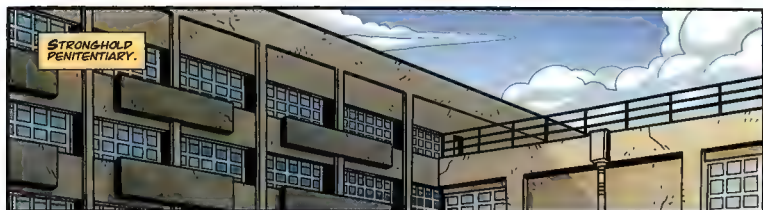
THAT IS
WHAT I WANT.
I WANT THAT
POWER.

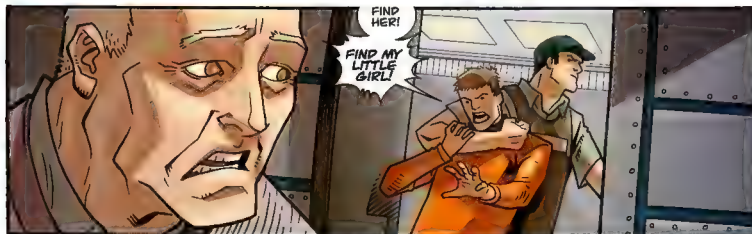
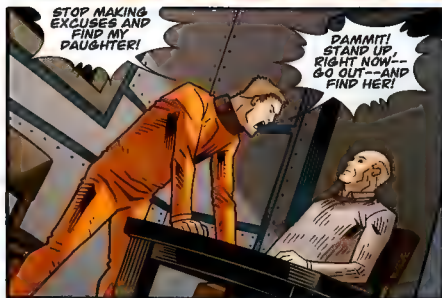
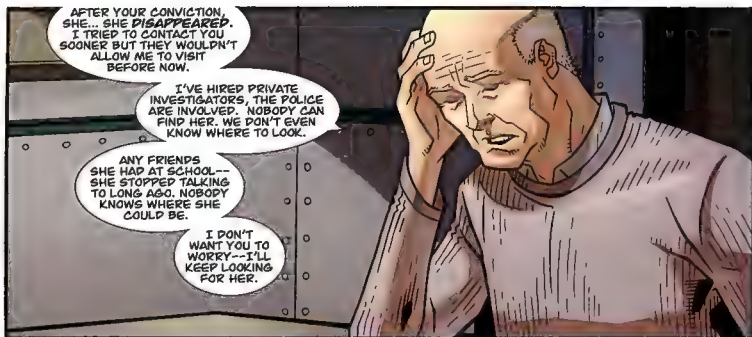


YOU DO
NOT KNOW THE
BURDEN OF THE
HUNGER.

JUST TRUST
IN MY WISDOM--
THAT IS SOMETHING
YOU DO NOT WANT.
I WILL SPARE
YOU THAT
FATE.









WHEN?!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T STORM THE PRISON AND KILL HIM RIGHT NOW!

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?! I'M READY.



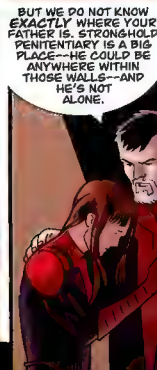
I ASSURE YOU-- YOU ARE NOT.

YOU'RE BEGINNING TO TRY MY PATIENCE, CHILD.



I'M SORRY, ZECHARIAH.

I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW MY MOTHER IS DEAD--AND HE'S STILL OUT THERE. IT WAS EASIER TO WAIT WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS.



BUT WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOUR FATHER IS. STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY IS A BIG PLACE--HE COULD BE ANYWHERE WITHIN THOSE WALLS--AND HE'S NOT ALONE.

THERE WILL BE MUCH TO CONTENT WITH IF WE ARE TO SET YOUR FATHER FREE IN ORDER TO KILL HIM. THERE ARE GUARDS, OTHER PRISONERS-- THE ACT WILL BE ALL--CONSUMING-- A MASSIVE ORDEAL.

BUT DON'T WORRY, CHLOE...



...I HAVE A PLAN.



THE FACE
IS GIVING
YOU ONE LAST
CHANCE.

YOU GOING
TO ACCEPT HIS
OFFER--OR DO
WE GET TO
HAVE OUR
FUN?



TAKE
ME TO
HIM.



I TAKE IT
YOU'VE HAD
A CHANGE OF
HEART?

BRING HIM
CLOSER.



I HEARD ABOUT THE
INCIDENT DURING YOUR
VISIT--THOUGHT I'D
GIVE YOU ANOTHER
CHANCE.

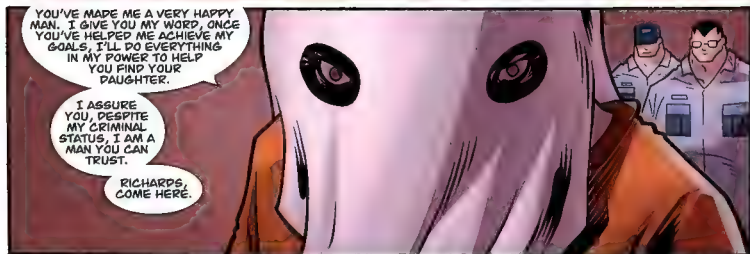
HAVING
SOME PROBLEMS
WITH--YOUR
DAUGHTER, WAS
IT? THAT'S A
REAL SHAME.

REALLY--
AND I MEAN
THIS. IT
BREAKS MY
HEART.



WHATEVER
YOU WANT ME
TO DO, IF I CAN
DO IT, I WILL. I'LL
DO ANYTHING. I
HAVE TO GET
OUT OF HERE--
NO MATTER
WHAT.

I HAVE
TO FIND MY
DAUGHTER.



YOU'VE MADE ME A VERY HAPPY
MAN. I GIVE YOU MY WORD, ONCE
YOU'VE HELPED ME ACHIEVE MY
GOALS, I'LL DO EVERYTHING
IN MY POWER TO HELP
YOU FIND YOUR
DAUGHTER.

I ASSURE
YOU, DESPITE
MY CRIMINAL
STATUS, I AM A
MAN YOU CAN
TRUST.

RICHARDS,
COME HERE.



ROOARGGH!



THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN

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15

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



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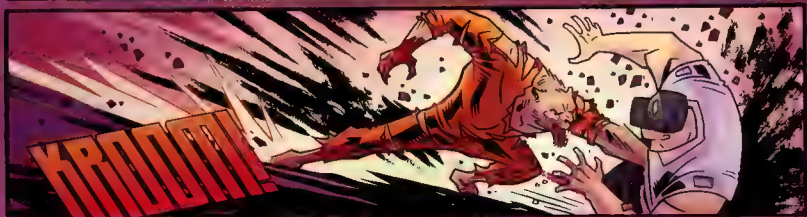
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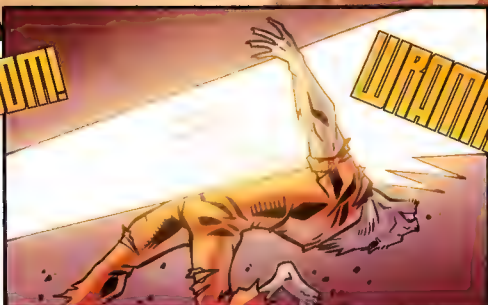
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
I OFFERED TO WORK
WITH YOU--TO HELP YOU
FIND YOUR DAUGHTER--
THIS IS HOW YOU
REPAY ME?!

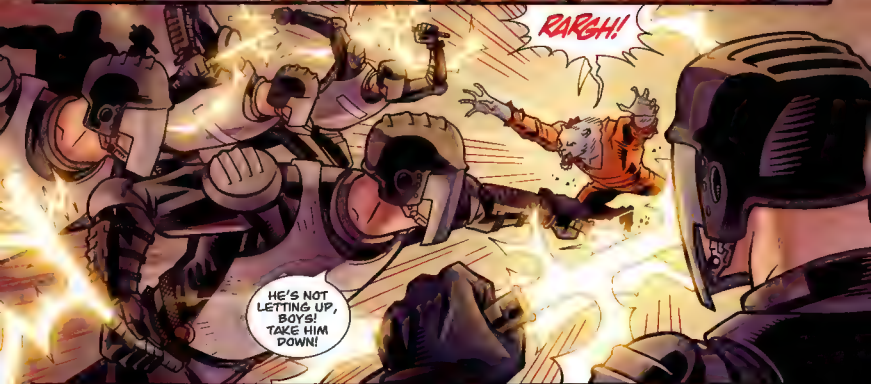
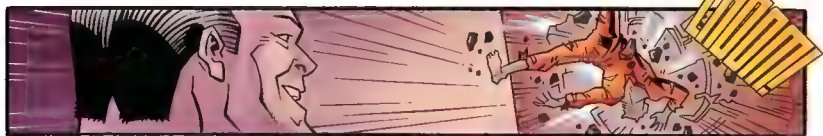
THE **SECOND**
I HAVE YOUR
POWER-INHIBITING
COLLAR REMOVED
YOU TURN ON
ME?!

LET ME
GIVE YOU
A LITTLE
TIP...

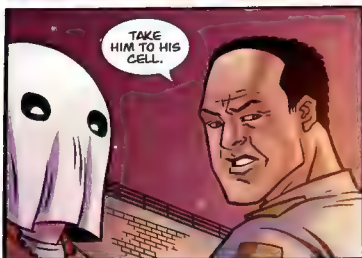
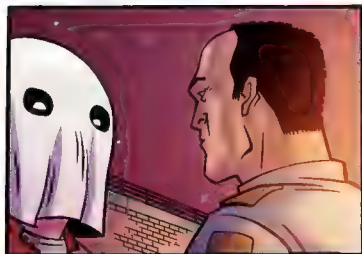








GRRGGH!



WHEN I AWOKE THE NEXT MORNING, I ONLY HAD A PASSING UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT I HAD DONE.

I'VE EXPERIENCED THE MOON RAGE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I HAD VAGUE MEMORIES OF KILLING THE GUARDS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I LOST CONTROL. THERE WAS NO FULL MOON THAT NIGHT. I THINK IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT INHIBITOR COLLAR I'D BEEN WEARING.

I'D WORN IT THROUGH A FULL MOON DURING THE TRIAL, AND ANOTHER BEFORE I GOT TO THE PRISON--MAYBE IT SUPPRESSED THE RAGE BUT DIDN'T GET RID OF IT...

JUST POSTPONED IT.

THAT MAKES ABOUT AS MUCH SENSE AS EVERYTHING ELSE, I SUPPOSE.

I COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT I'D PROBABLY RUINED MY AGREEMENT WITH THE FACE AND ANY HELP HE COULD OFFER ME IN ESCAPING SO THAT I COULD FIND MY DAUGHTER.

I ASSUMED RIGHT.

I JUST CAME TO SAY GOODBYE, YOU FOOLISH MAN.

THIS IS THE END FOR YOU.

I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIM. THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON--HOW IT AFFECTS ME. THE COLLAR... WHAT I THOUGHT HAD HAPPENED.

I TRIED TO ASSURE HIM THAT I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL DURING THOSE TIMES.

MY DAUGHTER IS MISSING. I WOULDN'T JEOPARDIZE FINDING HER TO, WHAT--INSTIGATE YOU MURDERING ME?

I'M NOT CRAZY. I HAD NO REASON TO ATTACK YOU.

I THINK HE BELIEVED ME.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN WE'RE ON THE RUN--WHEN YOU'RE GETTING ME OUT OF THE COUNTRY?

THIS MAKES YOU USELESS TO ME. YOU COULD RUIN MY PLANS--YOU'RE A LIABILITY.

IT'S THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON. ONE NIGHT A MONTH. I CAN LOCK MYSELF AWAY FOR THAT TIME.

AND I'VE GOT AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS TO PROVE HOW USEFUL I CAN BE OTHERWISE.

OKAY... FOR NOW. WE'LL TALK SPECIFICS LATER.

STAY ALERT.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS BACK IN. IT MAKES ME THINK THE FACE IS MORE DESPERATE THAN HE LETS ON.

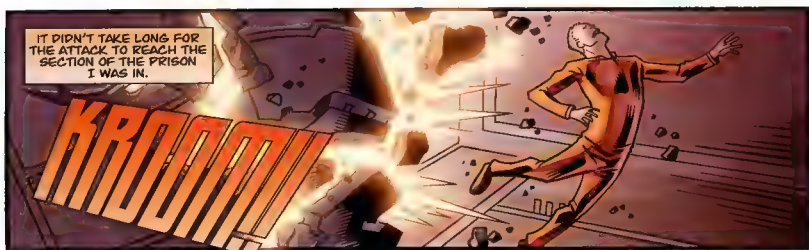
OF COURSE--IT WASN'T LONG AFTER OUR MEETING THAT EVERYTHING WENT TO HELL.



ALTERNATE DIMENSION EVIL
VERSIONS OF INVINCIBLE,
YOU SAY? THAT GUY JUST
CAN'T CATCH A BREAK, HUH?

WIRP-KOON!

*SEE INVINCIBLE
ISSUE 60 FOR THE
FULL STORY!



YOU FOOL! YOU SHOULD
BE RUNNING WITH US--
WHY ARE YOU DOING
THIS? YOU'RE NO
BETTER THAN US--
WIFE-KILLER!

YOU'RE IN HERE FOR
A REASON, THRILL-KILL.
IF KEEPING YOU INSIDE
MEANS I STAY TOO--
SO BE IT!

WHAT'S
THE DEAL--
YOU LIKE IT
IN HERE?!

SWOOSH!

WRUHH!

YOU!

GET
BACK
HERE!

BZZZAKT!

NOT YOU
OR ANYBODY
ELSE IS GOING
TO KEEP ME
IN HERE.

SOON,
INVINCIBLE...

BUT NOT
TODAY.

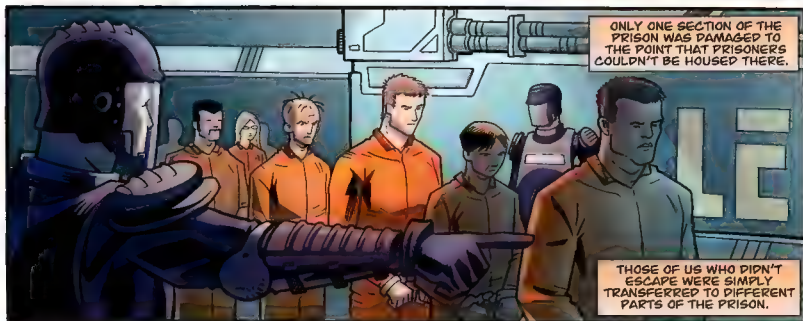
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO HE
WAS BUT HE KNOCKED ME
OUT INSTANTLY. I WASN'T
EVEN SURE HE'D ESCAPED
UNTIL YOU TOLD ME THEY
CAUGHT HIM. * **POWERPLEX**
IS ABOUT THE OPPEST NAME
I'VE HEARD ONE OF THESE
GUYS PICK YET.

*SEE INVINCIBLE 61
FOR DETAILS.

I'VE BEEN SPENDING
A LOT OF TIME
UNCONSCIOUS LATELY...



THE PRISON SUSTAINED VERY LITTLE DAMAGE, CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD.



ONLY ONE SECTION OF THE PRISON WAS DAMAGED TO THE POINT THAT PRISONERS COULDN'T BE HOUSED THERE.

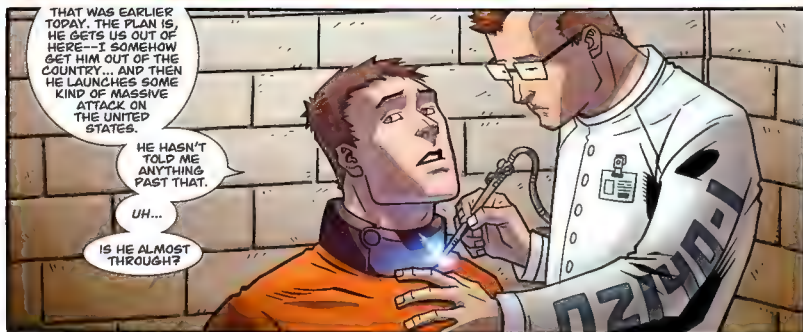
THOSE OF US WHO DIDN'T ESCAPE WERE SIMPLY TRANSFERRED TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PRISON.



THE FACE SURVIVED THE ATTACK. HE CAME TO GIVE ME AN UPDATE.

THERE WERE A FEW SETBACKS DUE TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PRISON AND CERTAIN PRISONERS BEING MOVED AROUND--BUT I'M COMPENSATING FOR ALL THAT.

AS SOON AS I'VE GOT THINGS SQUARED AWAY--I'LL GIVE YOU DETAILS. BUT WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE SOON, AND THEN THE BALL'S IN YOUR COURT.



THAT WAS EARLIER TODAY. THE PLAN IS, HE GETS US OUT OF HERE--I SOMEHOW GET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY... AND THEN HE LAUNCHES SOME KIND OF MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES.

HE HASN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING PAST THAT.

UH...

IS HE ALMOST THROUGH?

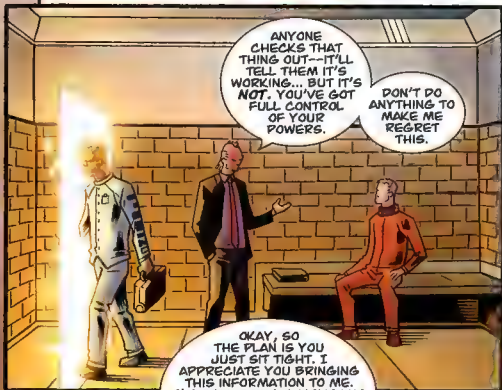


YOU ABOUT FINISHED THERE, PAL?



YEP. ALL DONE.

GOOD, THAT WILL BE ALL.



ANYONE CHECKS THAT THING OUT--IT'LL TELL THEM IT'S WORKING... BUT IT'S NOT. YOU'VE GOT FULL CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS.

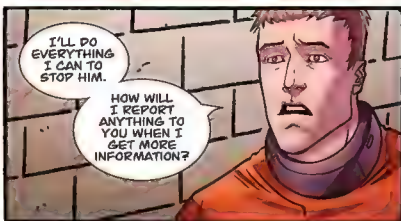
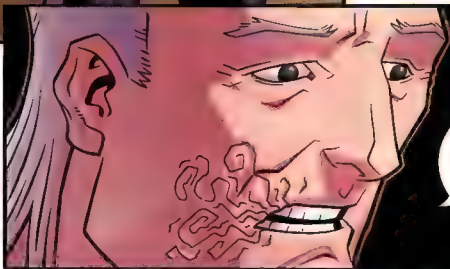
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE ME REGRET THIS.

OKAY, SO THE PLAN IS YOU JUST SIT TIGHT. I APPRECIATE YOU BRINGING THIS INFORMATION TO ME. I'M STILL DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO CLEAR YOUR NAME AND I'VE GOT A TEAM WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO FIND YOUR DAUGHTER.

THE FACE IS NO JOKE. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE NOW DEFUNCT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE BODY, BUT BEFORE THESE GUYS WERE PUSHED OUT OF POWER--THEY WERE UNTOUCHABLE.

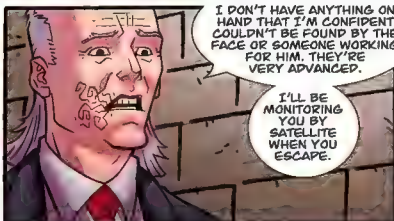
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP ON THIS.

AND THE FACE WAS THE LAST ONE TO FALL--BY FAR THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE GROUP. IF HE'S PLANNING AN ATTACK--I CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE IT LIGHTLY.



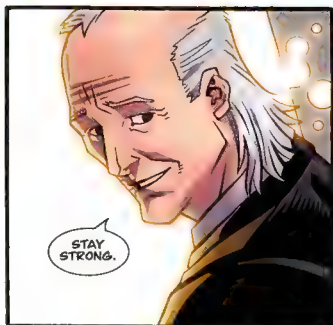
I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP HIM.

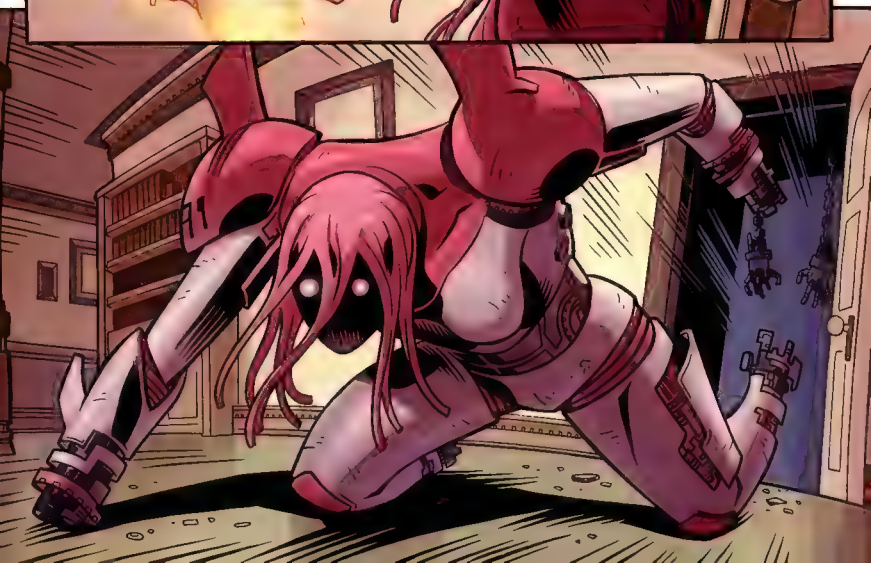
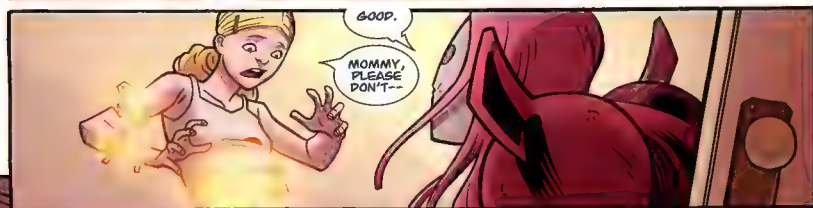
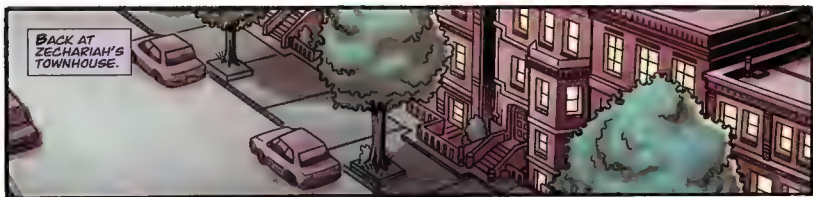
HOW WILL I REPORT ANYTHING TO YOU WHEN I GET MORE INFORMATION?



I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HAND THAT I'M CONFIDENT COULDN'T BE FOUND BY THE FACE OR SOMEONE WORKING FOR HIM. THEY'RE VERY ADVANCED.

I'LL BE MONITORING YOU BY SATELLITE WHEN YOU ESCAPE.

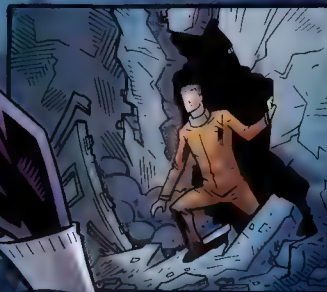




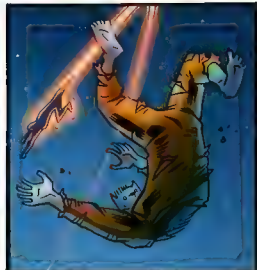
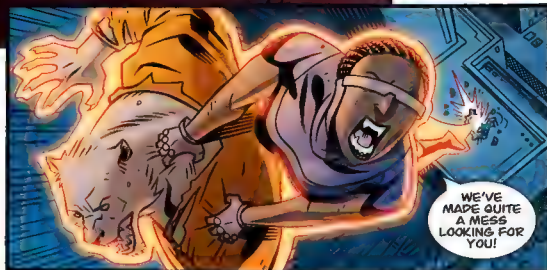
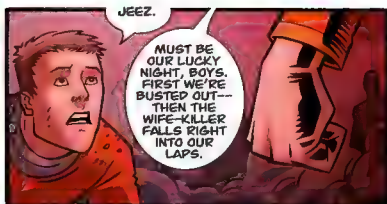
**STRONGHOLD
PENITENTIARY.**













THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFMAN

Image

16

\$2.99



ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD



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OFTEN I WOULD THINK ABOUT OUR TIME SPENT TOGETHER AND I WOULD LAMENT THAT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE THAT AGAIN.

THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I CONSIDERED YOU MY CLOSEST FRIEND.

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES.



YOU KILLED MY WIFE!



IF I KILLED YOUR WIFE, GARY--WHY ARE YOU THE ONE IN PRISON?



GRAAAGH!!!



YOU MUST ATTACK FIRST. YOU CANNOT GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO OUTMANEUVER YOU. HE WILL BE FAST, FASTER THAN YOU.

DO YOUR BEST TO CATCH HIM OFF GUARD. HE WILL UNDERESTIMATE YOU. USE THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.



HAVE YOU LEARNED NOTHING IN OUR TIME APART? HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO BEAT ME?!

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING!



WROKK!

C'MERE!



THOOM!

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

STAY CLOSE TO ME AND DO EXACTLY AS I SAY. MY CONSTRUCT IS EN ROUTE. I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME. THIS IS EXACTLY THE DISTRACTION WE NEEDED.

THE CHAOS WILL ACTUALLY WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS BETTER IF WE'D PLANNED THIS.



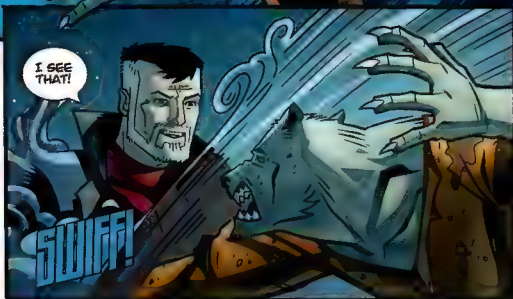


I'M IMPRESSED—
YOU'RE FASTER,
YOUR STRIKES
ARE MORE
PRECISE.

BUT
IT WON'T
MATTER.

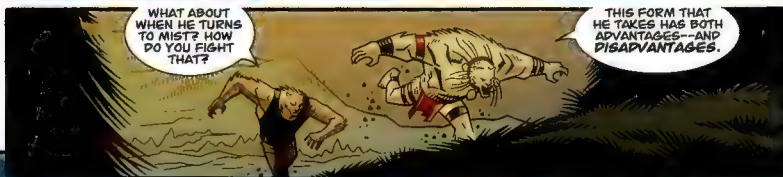


THIS IS
NOTHING—
THIS WON'T
EVEN SLOW
ME DOWN!



I SEE
THAT!

SWIFF!

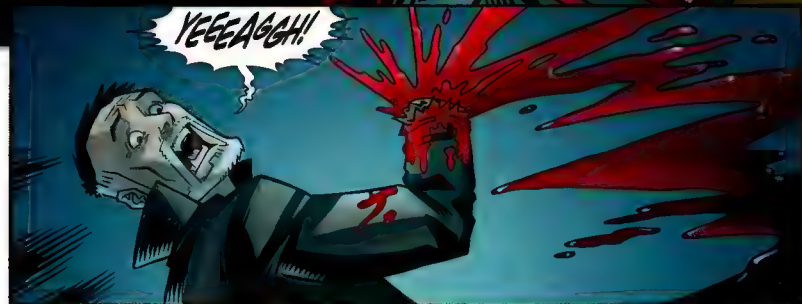
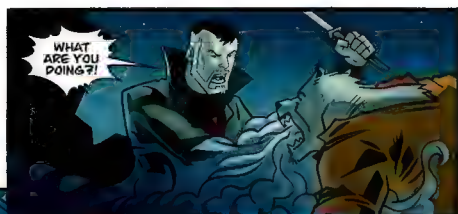


WHAT ABOUT
WHEN HE TURNS
TO MIST? HOW
DO YOU FIGHT
THAT?

THIS FORM THAT
HEAKES HAS BOTH
ADVANTAGES—AND
DISADVANTAGES.



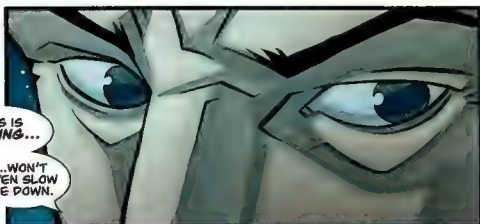
GASP!





MY HAND...
MY HAND...

THIS IS NOTHING...
...WON'T EVEN SLOW ME DOWN.



THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!



I CAN TELL YOU'RE GETTING WEAKER-- THE BLOOD LOSS, YOUR POWERS ARE DRAINING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL YOU QUICK!

WRAHHH!!



RAARGH!



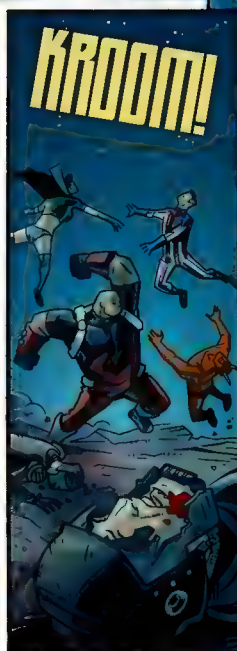
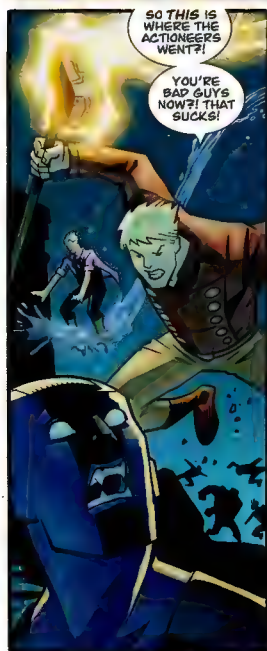
HOLD ON, MINOTAUR! I'M--

OH, CRAP!



SECURE
THE PRISONERS---
PROTECT THE
GUARDS. YOU
KNOW THE
DRILL--FORM A
PERIMETER!

WE'VE GOT
TO KEEP THIS
CONTAINED!



I TRUSTED
YOU!

SHRAKK!

WHAT DO YOU
WANT ME TO
SAY?! I'M
SORRY?!

WOULD THAT
REALLY CHANGE
ANYTHING?!

KROOK!

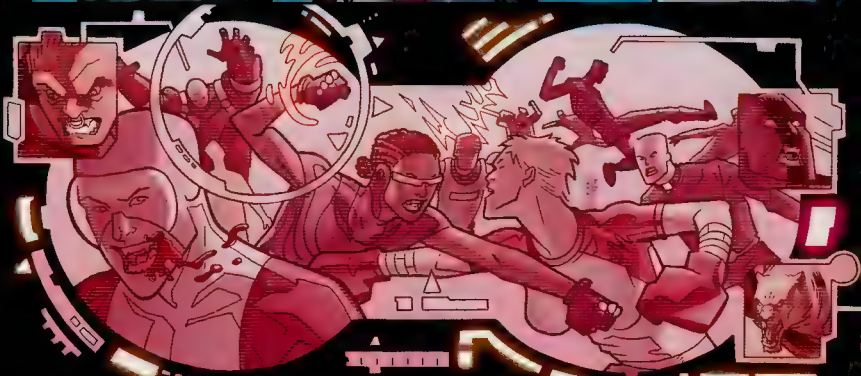
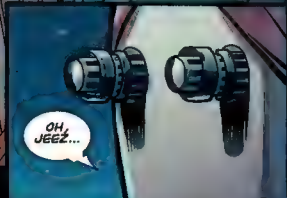
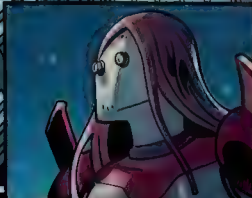
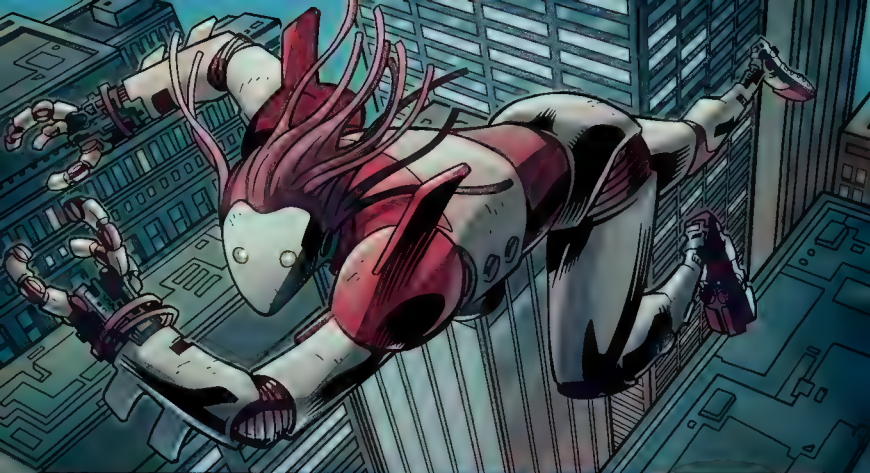
KROON!

WAIT.

SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT
ABOUT YOU... SOMETHING
I CAN'T QUITE PINPOINT.
YOU KNOW THINGS
YOU SHOULDN'T.

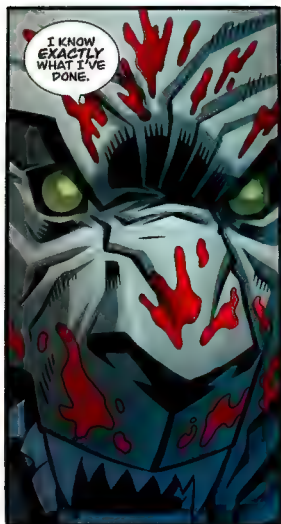
IT CAN'T JUST
BE YOUR ANGER--
I THOUGHT IT WAS
AT FIRST, BUT IT
CAN'T BE. YOU'RE
FASTER, STRONGER,
SOMETHING
HAS DEFINITELY
CHANGED
YOU.

YOU'VE
BEEN
GETTING
HELP.









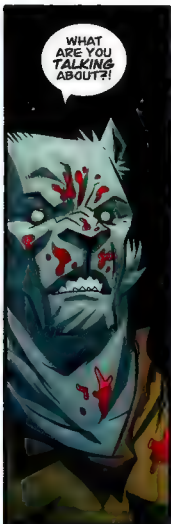
I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT I'VE
DONE.



NO... YOU
DON'T.

YOU WENT
TO HIM... YOU
BROUGHT
IN THE
ELDER.

YOU'VE
DOOMED
US ALL.



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT!



IT'S A
MIRACLE YOU
EVER... ESCAPED
HIM IN THE FIRST
PLACE. HIS BLOOD
YOU AND ANY OTHER
WEREWOLF HE'S
BIRED... THEY ARE
MEANT TO BE
HIS SLAVES.

ANY TRAINING
HE GAVE YOU--
WAS ONLY TO MAKE
YOU A MORE CAPABLE...
SERVANT. HE'LL
COME FOR YOU...
AND WHEN HE
DOES...

...YOU'LL
NEED
ME.



I'LL JUST
HAVE TO
MANAGE ON MY
OWN THEN--
BECAUSE YOU'LL
BE LONG DEAD
BY THEN.

YOU REALLY
THINK I'M GOING
TO BELIEVE
ANYTHING YOU
SAY AT THIS
POINT?!



ZECHARIAH!

NO...



YOU SAID
YOU WOULD
BRING HIM
TO ME!

UROKKI!

KROKKI!

UROKKI!

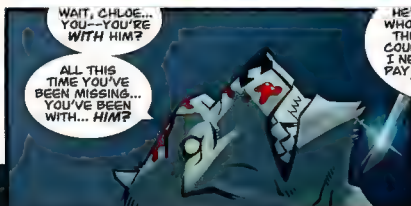
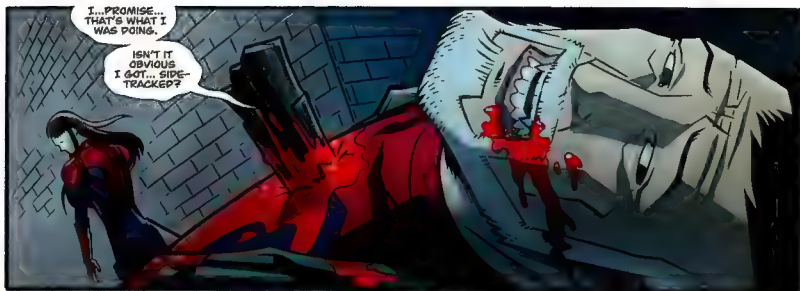
CHLOE?

WHAT
ARE
YOU--?

SHUT
UP!

YOU WERE
FIGHTING HIM?
YOU TOLD ME YOU
WERE GOING TO
BRING HIM TO ME!
YOU TOLD ME I
WOULD GET TO
KILL HIM!

WE HAD
A DEAL--WHY
WOULD YOU
DO THIS?!







CHLOE, I
WANTED TO TELL
YOU--BUT I
COULDN'T! I KNOW
WHAT YOU SAW--
I KNEW YOU
WOULDN'T
BELIEVE ME!



YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I WON'T!



I KNEW WHO
DID KILL YOUR
MOTHER, BUT
I NEEDED
PROOF.



I CAME
HERE TO
KILL YOU--
NOT TO
HEAR YOUR
LIES!

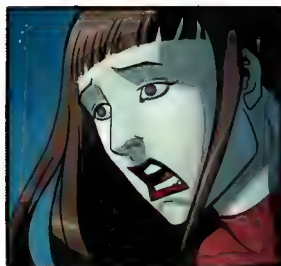


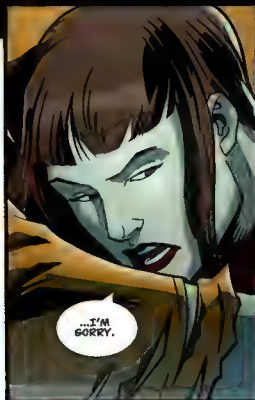
JUST LISTEN. YOU HAD A
DEAL WITH ZECHARIAH. HE
TRAINED YOU TO KILL ME--
HE SAID HE'D LET
YOU KILL ME--
AND DIDN'T.

WHY IS
THAT? WHY
DO YOU THINK
HE ATTACKED
ME FIRST?

HE DOESN'T
WANT US TO
TALK, CHLOE. HE
DOESN'T WANT
YOU TO HEAR
THE TRUTH.

ZECHARIAH
KILLED YOUR
MOTHER.







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ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



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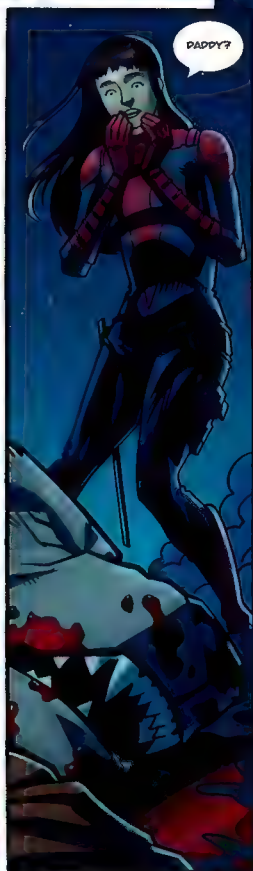
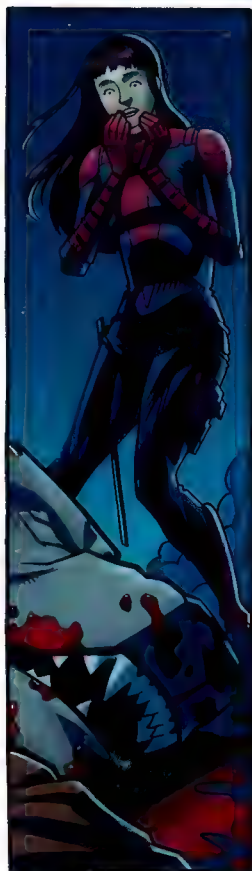
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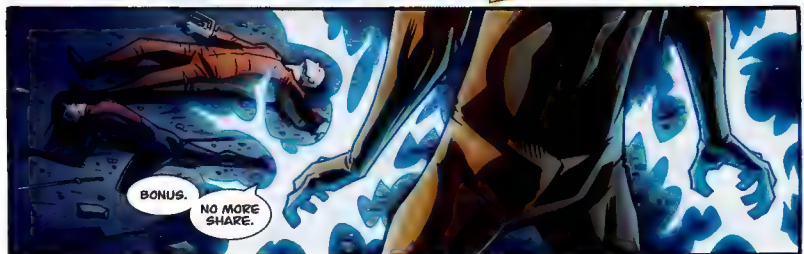




A LITTLE
YOUNG, SURE...
BUT BEGGARS
CAN'T BE
CHOOSERS.

THIS
ONE IS
RIPE FOR
TAKING.

YUCK.





BACK OFF!



OOF!

URRRRR!



ZZZZT!



UNGH.



DON'T MOVE.

TRUST
ME, DADDY--
I'VE GROWN
UP!

I CAN
HANDLE
MYSELF!

SWASH!

HURRK!

THAT WILL
TAKE SOME
GETTING
USED TO.

WRATH!!!

YOU DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE--THIS
IS OUR LIFE NOW.
I THINK WE BOTH
NEED TO LEARN
TO LIVE WITH
IT.

THIS, I CAN
LIVE WITH.
WHAT WE HAD
BEFORE--NOT
SO MUCH.

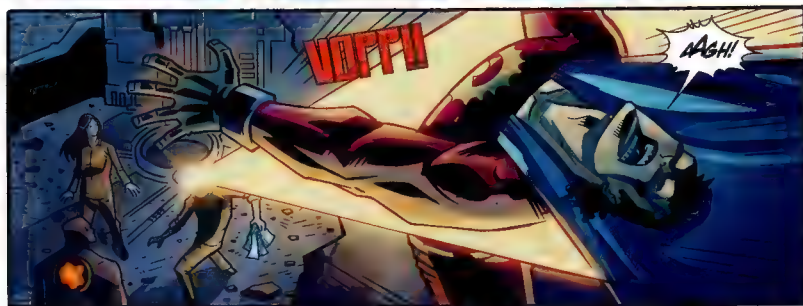
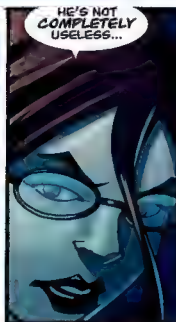
KRAK!

SWASH!

THIS
GUY'S
OUT.

GREAT,
MINE
TOO--

OH,
CRAP.





I HAVE
TO GO.

GO? GO
WHERE?!

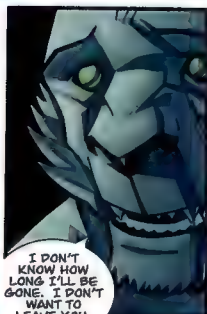


THERE'S NOT
ENOUGH TIME
TO EXPLAIN.

THERE'S A
VILLAIN CALLED
THE FACE--AND
HE'S GOT SOME
KIND OF MASTER
PLAN THAT I THINK
I CAN STOP--I'D
BE SAVING LIVES.
I HAVE TO
DO THIS.



OKAY,
SO GO.



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
LONG I'LL BE
GONE. I DON'T
WANT TO
LEAVE YOU.



SO WHAT? I CAN
TAKE CARE OF
MYSELF. I'LL BE
FINE. I'VE GOT A
LOT TO SORT OUT...
I COULD USE
THE TIME.

YOU DO
WHAT YOU
NEED TO DO. I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR DRIVE
TO HELP
PEOPLE.

ONCE I STOPPED
BLAMING YOU FOR
EVERYTHING...
EVERYTHING I'VE
DONE DOESN'T
FEEL SO...
JUSTIFIED.



I UNDERSTAND
YOUR... GUILT.



IF WHAT YOU DO PREVENTS
ONE FAMILY FROM HAVING
TO GO THROUGH WHAT
WE'VE GONE THROUGH--
IT'S WORTH IT.

I UNDERSTAND,
I DO. SO GO.

I HATE
TO DO THIS--
THERE'S SO
MUCH I WANT
TO TELL YOU.
SO MUCH I
WANT TO ASK
YOU.



THIS FIGHT LOOKS TO BE ABOUT OVER. YOU WAIT HERE--IF I'M RIGHT, THERE WILL BE A MAN HERE, WHITE HAIR, SCAR ON HIS FACE... HIS NAME IS CECIL.



TELL HIM WHO YOU ARE, TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED HERE. HE'LL BELIEVE YOU.

TELL HIM ABOUT ZECARIAH... DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY... HE DESERVES HIS FATE.

STAY SAFE-- I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

DAD, I--

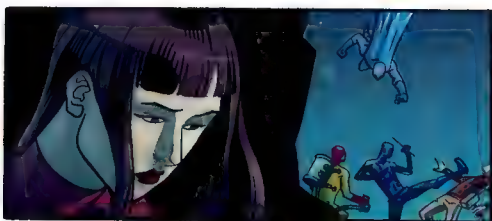
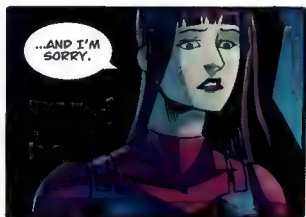


I KNOW. I'M SORRY IT HAD TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS, BUT I'M GLAD TO HAVE FOUND YOU-- AND I HOPE THAT WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO BEING A FAMILY AGAIN.

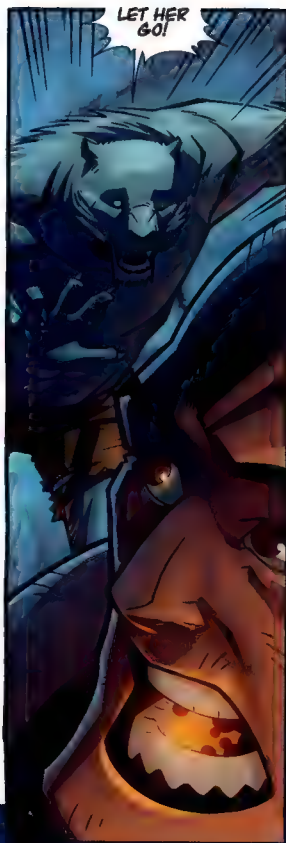
I LOVE YOU, DAD.

I LOVE YOU, TOO.

STAY SAFE!







LET HER
GO!



DO WHAT HE
SAYS, ERUPTOR!
KILL HIM
INSTEAD.

WITH
PLEASURE.



YOU WILL DO
NO SUCH
THING.

WOLF-MAN
IS WITH ME.



WHY ARE YOU
PROTECTING
THIS THING?

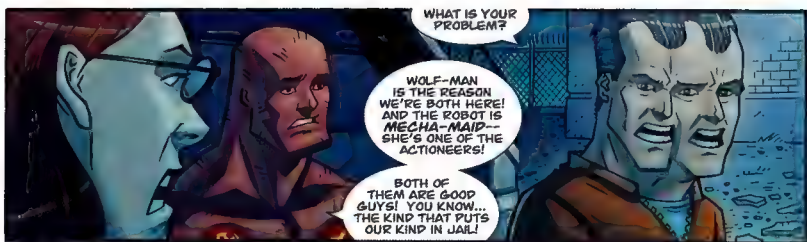
SHE'S BEEN
WORKING WITH
ME. SHE HELPED
CAUSE THIS ATTACK
ON THE JAIL
THAT'S PROVIDING
OUR ESCAPE.

THIS ISN'T
THE KIND OF
THANKS SHE'D
EXPECT.

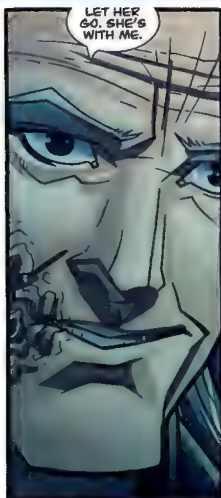
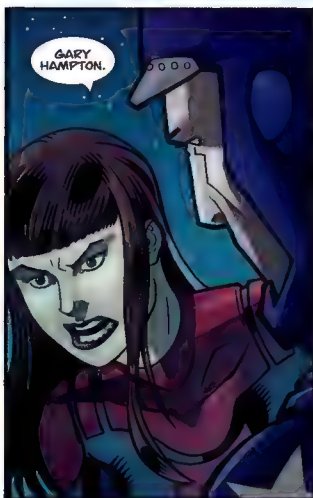
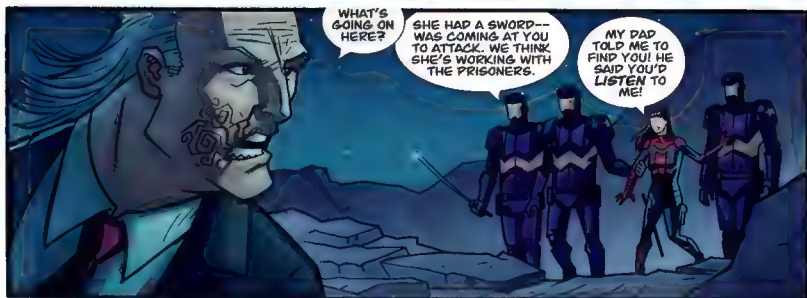


BRING
HER.

YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS!







ONE OF CONSTRUCT'S VARIOUS
SAFE-HOUSES SCATTERED
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'VE BEEN OUT
FOR A COUPLE
HOURS.

HAD
TO REBOOT,
THERE WERE A
COUPLE SYSTEM
ERRORS AFTER
THAT BLAST.

WHERE
AM I?

WOW, I
KINDA THOUGHT
YOU WERE GOING
TO FLIP OUT
WHEN YOU
WOKE UP.

IT WOULD BE UNWISE
TO REACT IRRATIONALLY.
YOU COULD HAVE AN
ARMY ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THAT
DOOR.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?
WHY AM I NOT
RESTRAINED?

I DIDN'T ABDUCT
YOU. I DON'T WANT
ANYTHING,
REALLY.

LOOK, I'M
SORRY I
DRAGGED YOU
INTO THIS. IT'S
HARD TO EXPLAIN,
BUT AS LONG AS
YOU PLAY ALONG,
YOU'RE NOT
IN ANY
DANGER.

YOU KILLED
SERGEANT
SUPERIOR. WHY
WOULD I BELIEVE
A WORD YOU
SAY?

THIS IS
COMPLICATED.
LOOK, I SAVED YOUR
LIFE. IF THEY ASK, YOU
SENT THE ACTIONEERS
TO STRONGHOLD TO
CAUSE A DIVERSION
SO I COULD
ESCAPE.

I REALLY
NEED YOU TO
PLAY ALONG
HERE OR WE'RE
BOTH IN
DANGER.

AND
INCIDENTALLY,
I'M NOT A
BAD GUY.

BOSS
WANTS
TO SEE
YOU.

THAT
THING
AWAKE?



THIS THING IS NAMED MECHA-MAID. SHOW SOME RESPECT.

THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT TOO WELL FOR YOU LAST TIME. THINK ABOUT THAT.

WATCH YOURSELF, PAL. I GET AN OPENING ON YOU--I MIGHT JUST TAKE IT.



GLAD YOU AND YOUR ROBOT COMPANION COULD JOIN US. I TRUST SHE'S FUNCTIONING PROPERLY?

FINE, THANKS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, FACE?

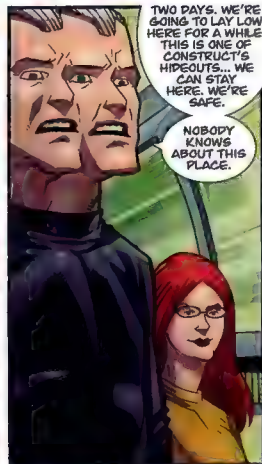


NEED YOU TO WORK YOUR MAGIC. I NEED GARY HAMPTON TO USE HIS CONTACTS TO GET US SAFELY OUT OF THIS COUNTRY.

CONSTRUCT COULDN'T FLY INTO ANOTHER COUNTRY'S AIRSPACE WITHOUT STARTING A WAR. WE NEED A LEGITIMATE AIRCRAFT. I FIGURE YOU KNOW MORE THAN A FEW PEOPLE WITH PRIVATE PLANES.



AS YOU KNOW, MY SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THESE DAYS. I CAN DO IT, BUT HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE?



TWO DAYS. WE'RE GOING TO LAY LOW HERE FOR A WHILE. THIS IS ONE OF CONSTRUCT'S HIDEOUTS... WE CAN STAY HERE. WE'RE SAFE.

NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE.



HE'S
THERE, ALL
RIGHT. HAS THE
ROBOT WOMAN
FROM THE
ACTIONEERS WITH
THEM. I HAVE
THEM IN
SIGHT.

RIGHT
WHERE
YOU SAID
THEY'D
BE.

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFMAN

Image

18

\$2.99



ROBERT KIRKMAN

JASON HOWARD

FCO & IVÁN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN



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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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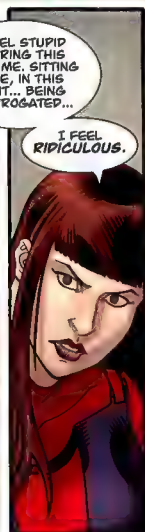
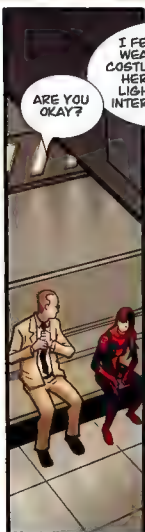
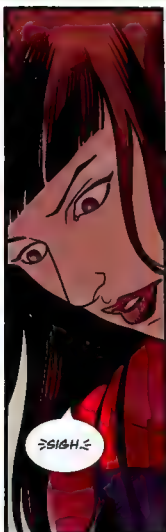
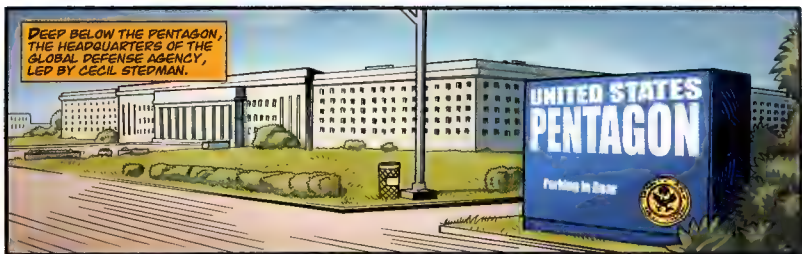
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I REALLY SHOULDN'T TELL YOU THIS BUT THEY HAD ME OBSERVE YOUR QUESTIONING.



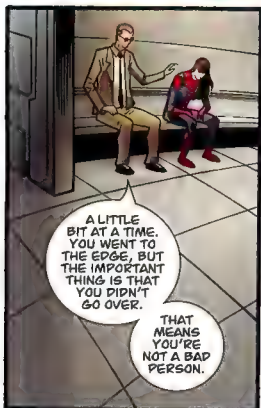
I'M VERY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.



YOU HEARD IT ALL?

ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS I DID? EVERYTHING?

HOW DOES SOMEONE COME BACK FROM ALL THAT?



A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME. YOU WENT TO THE EDGE, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU DIDN'T GO OVER.

THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON.



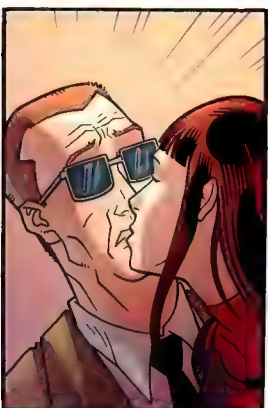
I'M NOT SO SURE.



ONE NEVER REALLY KNOWS FOR SURE. TRUST ME. WE ALL HAVE OUR MOMENTS.

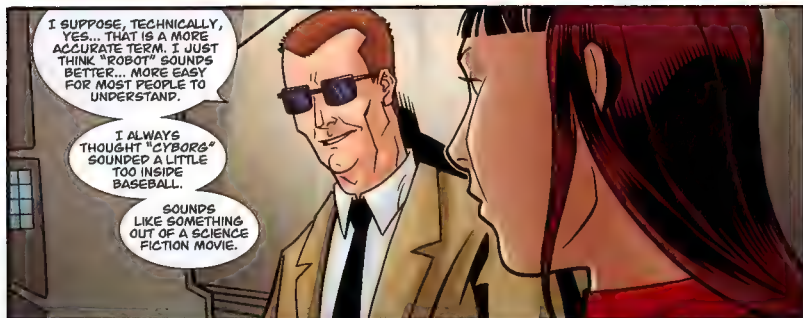
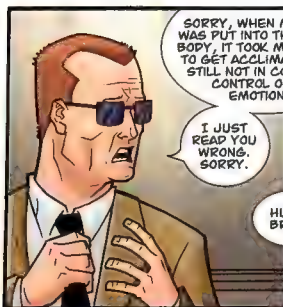


THANK YOU.



UH... I'M MARRIED.

AND A ROBOT...



ELSEWHERE.
CONSTRUCT'S
SAFE HOUSE.

NICE.

VERY
NICE.





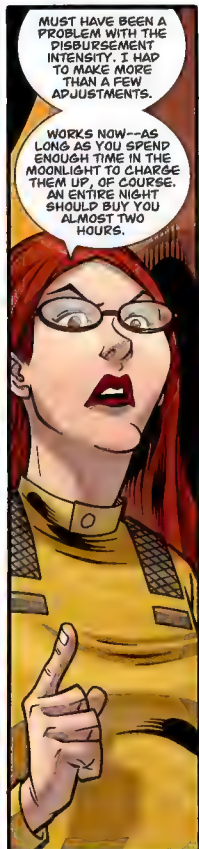
THIS IS IMPRESSIVE,
YOUR MACHINES MADE
THIS? IT'S JUST LIKE
MY COSTUME.

THE
GAUNTLETS
SHOULD
WORK,
TOO.



NO, ACTUALLY, THEY
NEVER WORKED.
THEY WERE SUPPOSED
TO STORE MOONLIGHT
AND ALLOW ME TO
REMAIN IN WOLF-FORM
FOR A LIMITED TIME
DURING THE
DAY.

THEY NEVER
QUITE WORKED
RIGHT, THOUGH.
I ONLY TRIED
IT ONCE.



MUST HAVE BEEN A
PROBLEM WITH THE
DISBURSEMENT
INTENSITY. I HAD
TO MAKE MORE
THAN A FEW
ADJUSTMENTS.

WORKS NOW--AS
LONG AS YOU SPEND
ENOUGH TIME IN THE
MOONLIGHT TO CHARGE
THEM UP, OF COURSE.
AN ENTIRE NIGHT
SHOULD BUY YOU
ALMOST TWO
HOURS.



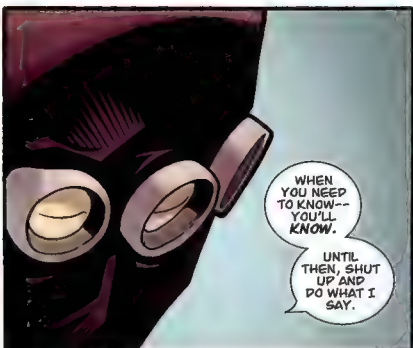
WHAT YOU'VE
ACCOMPLISHED
HERE IS STUNNING.
I FEEL LIKE
I WAS JUST
BUILT.

THE
REPAIRS
YOU MADE ARE
AMAZING.



IT'S GOOD TO SEE
THAT YOU'VE ALL PUT
YOUR DIFFERENCES
ASIDE. THANK
YOU.

BUT,
ENOUGH
CHIT CHAT.
LET'S GET
DOWN TO
BUSINESS.



DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY,
LED BY CECIL STEPMAN.

UNITED STATES
PENTAGON

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

I KNOW
SOMETHING IS
GOING ON. YOU HAD
GARY HAMPTON'S
DAUGHTER HERE
FOR QUESTIONING
ALL DAY. YOU
LET HER GO.

YOU KNOW
SOMETHING.

LOOK, I
UNDERSTAND
THERE'S A "PAY
GRADE" SITUATION
HERE THAT
PREVENTS ME
FROM KNOWING
EVERYTHING
THAT GOES ON--
BUT I'M A
DEDICATED
AGENT.

I DON'T
WANT TO BE
WORKING ON THE
SIDE ON SOMETHING
THAT COULD END UP
BEING A GIGANTIC
WASTE OF TIME
BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

I
APPRECIATE
THAT, I DO.
BUT...

...

THE WOLF-MAN
INVESTIGATION
IS OVER.

LET IT GO.
THAT'S AN
ORDER.

NOW,
IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME.



I HAVE SOMETHING SOMEWHAT URGENT TO DEAL WITH.

GOOD, YOU'RE UP. I THOUGHT YOUR KIND SLEPT DURING THE DAY. I WAS WORRIED I'D HAVE TO WAKE YOU.

FUNNY STORY I WANTED TO TELL YOU. DURING THE TRIAL OF YOUR FRIEND GARY HAMPTON... THE DEFENSE BROUGHT UP HOW THE BITE MARKS ON HIS WIFE'S NECK-- THE WOUND THAT CAUSED HER TO BLEED TO DEATH, NEVER MATCHED UP WITH HIS TEETH WHEN HE WAS HUMAN OR IN WOLF FORM.

SEEMS LIKE AN OBVIOUS THING THAT WOULD CLEAR HIM OF ALL CHARGES BUT THE PROSECUTION ARGUED THAT THE BITE COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT ANY POINT IN HIS TRANSFORMATION. THAT ALONG WITH THE WITNESS TESTIMONY FROM HIS OWN DAUGHTER SEALED HIS FATE.

FUNNY THING, THOUGH--WE TOOK A MOLD OF YOUR TEETH WHILE YOU WERE HEALING FROM YOUR INJURIES... AND YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING...

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE. THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK BEYOND YOUR LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE.

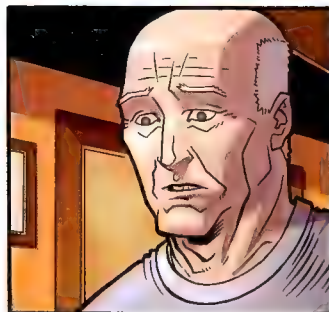
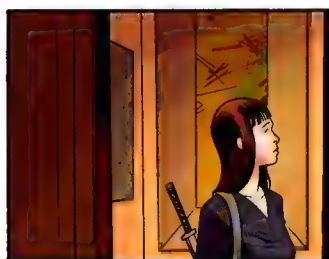
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP ME HERE.

BULL.

I'M GOING TO SEE YOU'RE CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF REBECCA HAMPTON.

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THERE'S SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE.

THE HAMPTON ESTATE.





OH,
CHILD...

WHEN MY
MOTHER DIED I
WAS BESIDE MYSELF.
I NEARLY LOST IT. TO
LOSE YOURS UNDER
THE CIRCUMSTANCES
YOU DID--AT YOUR
YOUNG AGE...

YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR.



SORRY
FOR THE
INTRUSION.

CHLOE, SORRY
I COULDN'T TELL
YOU THIS BEFORE
YOU'D LEFT THE
PENTAGON... I
THOUGHT YOU'D
WANT TO KNOW
RIGHT AWAY...

I KNOW YOU
ALREADY BELIEVED
HIM, BUT WE HAVE
HARD EVIDENCE NOW.
YOUR FATHER DID
NOT KILL YOUR
MOTHER.



ABOVE
CONSTRUCT'S
SAFEHOUSE.

I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH
A LOT OF DISAPPOINTMENT
LATELY. I'M REALLY
TRUSTING YOU ON THIS.
DON'T LET ME
DOWN.

I ASSURE
YOU--YOU
CAN TRUST ME
ON THIS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT HE'S
PLANNING? HOW
CAN YOU KNOW
WE CAN STOP
IT?

SIMPLE
ANSWER? I
DON'T--BUT
THAT DOESN'T
MEAN I'M
NOT GOING
TO TRY.

WE'RE READY TO
MOVE OUT. ARE
YOU SURE YOUR
GUY HAS
EVERYTHING IN
PLACE?

I AM. HE'S
TRUSTWORTHY.
HE'S HAD SOME
SHADY DEALINGS
IN THE PAST THAT
I'VE LEARNED
ABOUT AND KEPT
SECRET.

THE GUY
OWES ME.

YOU'D
BETTER
BE RIGHT--
OR ELSE--

UH...





KRAK!

YOU TURN
YOUR BACK ON
OUR KIND! YOU
TRY TO LIVE
AMONG THEM
WHEN THEY ARE
BENEATH
YOU!

YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
YOURSELF!



YOU'RE
INSANE!

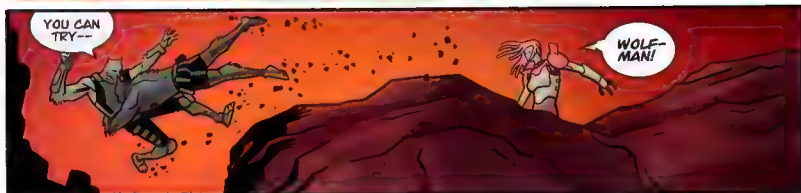
YOU'RE
NOT MAKING
ANY SENSE!

CRASH!



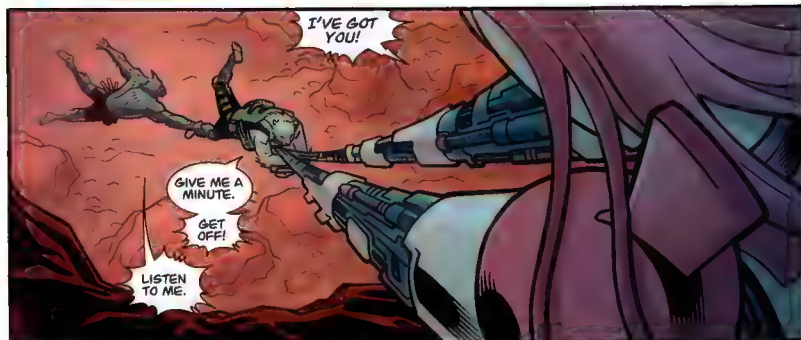
I'LL MAKE YOU
UNDERSTAND!

EVEN
IF IT KILLS
YOU!



YOU CAN
TRY--

WOLF-
MAN!



I'VE GOT
YOU!

GIVE ME A
MINUTE.

GET
OFF!

LISTEN
TO ME.



I'M WITH
CECIL. TAKE
THIS. IT'S A
COMMUNICATOR.



WHAT?! I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

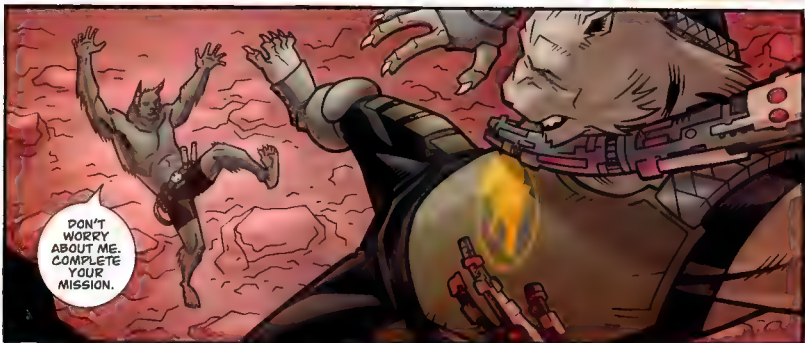


I WORK FOR
HIM NOW. YOU
SAVED MY
LIFE.

THANK
YOU.



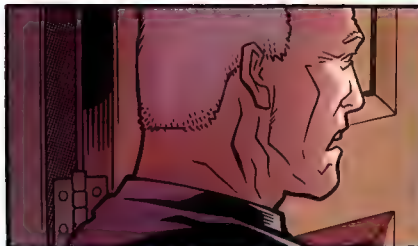
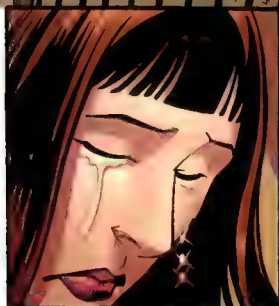
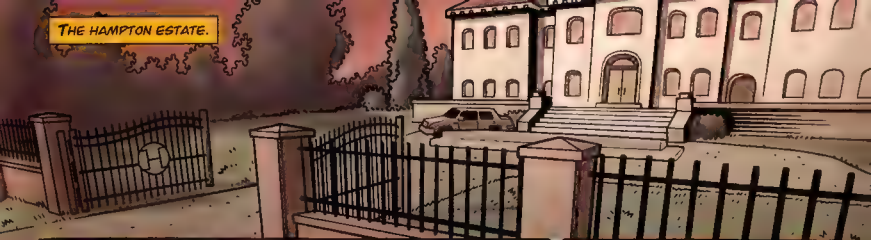
WHO
ARE
YOU?



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT ME.
COMPLETE
YOUR
MISSION.



IF YOU'RE
THROUGH WITH
YOUR PLAYMATE...
WE'VE GOT A
PLANE TO
CATCH.



CHLOE,
DEAR--
IS THERE
ANYTHING
I CAN--



OH,
DUNFORD--
HOW WILL
HE EVER
FORGIVE
ME?



HE'S YOUR
FATHER, DEAR.
HE'S ALREADY
FORGIVEN
YOU.

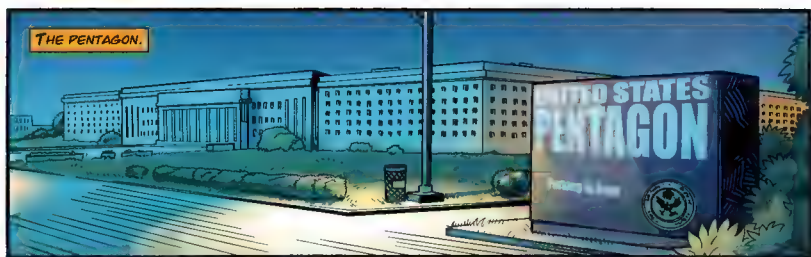


I WOULDN'T.
AFTER
EVERYTHING I'VE
DONE... I WILL
NEVER FORGIVE
MYSELF.

I'M SO
ASHAMED.

A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP
IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.





STILL AT IT, ARE THEY?

YEAH.

JESUS.



PLEASE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US!

THE HUNGER! NO!

HELP US!

AARRGH!



I USED TO LOOK UP TO THESE PEOPLE.

CECIL DECIDE WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO WITH THEM?



SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING ME HERE TO DISCUSS IT. SOMETHING'S KEEPING HIM.

MUST HAVE A CALL RUNNING LONG.

MILITARY CARGO PLANE,
APPROACHING THE
UNITED KINGDOM.



I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY GOT
A FREE MOMENT TO TURN ON
THE EARPIECE, KID. JUST IN
CASE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE
THE VOICE, IT'S ME,
CECIL STEPMAN.

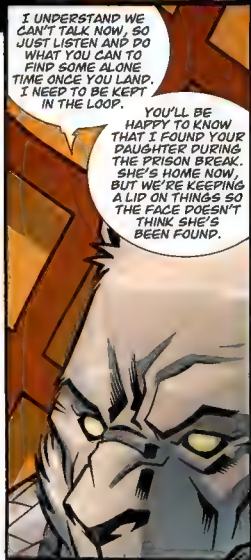
I CAN TRACK
THE EARPIECE, LOOKS
LIKE YOU'RE ON A MILITARY
CARGO SHIP HEADED FOR
ONE OF OUR MILITARY BASES
IN THE U.K. DON'T QUITE
KNOW HOW YOU PULLED
THAT OFF. BRAVO.

I'LL
EXPECT THAT
TO BE PART OF
YOUR DEBRIEF
WHEN THIS IS
ALL OVER.



I UNDERSTAND WE
CAN'T TALK NOW, SO
JUST LISTEN AND DO
WHAT YOU CAN TO
FIND SOME ALONE
TIME ONCE YOU LAND.
I NEED TO BE KEPT
IN THE LOOP.

YOU'LL BE
HAPPY TO KNOW
THAT I FOUND YOUR
DAUGHTER DURING
THE PRISON BREAK.
SHE'S HOME NOW,
BUT WE'RE KEEPING
A LID ON THINGS SO
THE FACE DOESN'T
THINK SHE'S
BEEN FOUND.



WOLF-
MAN!

I DON'T
THINK SHE'S
IN A HURRY
TO RETURN
TO SCHOOL
ANYWAY.

ANOTHER
THING YOU
MIGHT LIKE
TO KNOW---



WOLF-
MAN!

WHAT?!

STOP
PAYDREAMING.

THIS
IS OUR
STOP.





DON'T IGNORE HIM AGAIN,
COULD RAISE SUSPICION.
THE FACE ISN'T STUPID,
I'M SURE HE'S GOT AN
EYE OR TWO ON YOU AT
ALL TIMES.

BE CAREFUL.

I DON'T THINK I NEED TO
REMINDE YOU HOW IMPERATIVE
IT IS THAT YOU FIGURE OUT
WHATEVER IT IS THE FACE IS
PLANNING AND STOP IT.

OUR CURRENT ANALYSIS
HAS THE MOST LIKELY
SCENARIO INVOLVING THE
NUCLEAR STOCKPILES OF
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

I PRAY WE'RE
WRONG...



ALMOST
TIME.



THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFEMAN

image

19

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ROBERT KIRKMAN

JASON HOWARD

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN



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IT USED TO PISS ME OFF, THE FACT THAT I NEVER HEARD HIS VOICE UNTIL AFTER I WAS LOCKED AWAY IN PRISON.

NEVER REALLY KNEW WHY THAT WAS... MAYBE I JUST WASN'T WILLING TO LISTEN BEFORE...

...SITTING IN THAT CELL, BORED OUT OF MY MIND... HE STARTED SPEAKING TO ME.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT... THE UNIQUE DUAL-BRAIN THAT I HAVE ALLOWS ME TO HEAR IT. IT'S BEEN HERE, FOR A VERY VERY LONG TIME, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO HEAR ITS PLEAS FOR HELP.

IT WANTS TO BE RELEASED. THAT'S ALL. AND FOR THAT, IT'S WILLING TO... TAKE REQUESTS. IT HAS POWER BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION--- SO OF COURSE, I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THIS THING UNDER MY CONTROL.

SO IF YOU FREE THIS... WHATEVER IT IS, IT WILL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO?

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?



WHO ELSE AM I GOING TO TELL? YOU THINK ANY OF THE OTHERS WOULD BELIEVE ME? NO, ONLY YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO EVEN CONSIDER BELIEVING MY STORY.

THE OTHERS WOULD THINK I WAS CRAZY AND TRY TO KILL ME ON THE SPOT... AND WE CAN'T HAVE THAT.



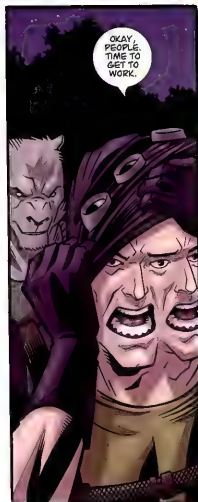


COME.

THERE'S
NO MORE
TIME TO WASTE.
LET'S GET
STARTED.

I HEARD IT
ALL, KID. THIS
GUY HAS CLEARLY
LOST IT. LET'S
JUST SIT BACK
AND SEE WHAT
HE DOES.

I'LL ADVISE
YOU ONCE WE
KNOW THE
SCORE.



OKAY,
PEOPLE.
TIME TO
GET TO
WORK.



CONSTRUCT,
WITHOUT
KNOCKING IT
OVER, PUSH
THAT ROCK
OVER EXACTLY
THREE
INCHES.



WE FIND
OUT WHAT
THIS IS ABOUT
SOON, RIGHT?
THIS IS
GETTING
OLD.



ERUPTOR
AND MECHA-
MAID, KNOCK
OVER THAT
ROCK.



BUT--?

BETTER
SNAP TO IT,
SUGAR.
THE FACE
DOESN'T
TOLERATE
OPINIONS.



UNGH.



THUD!!





BEHOLD,
GORGG!!

OH, GREAT
ONE, I AM
HONORED TO
MEET YOU AND
PROVIDE YOUR
EMERGENCE!

ARE YOU
PREPARED TO
RECEIVE
YOUR
TASKS?

UH...



TO THE
ONE KNOWN AS
THE FACE--YOU
HAVE SERVED
ME WELL.

AFTER EIGHT-
THOUSAND YEARS
OF SLUMBER,
I AM FREE.

I
THANK
YOU.



YOU ARE NO
LONGER OF
ANY USE
TO ME.



SCREW
THIS!

IT
DOESN'T
SEE US!
RUN!



HE'S HEADING FOR
THE OCEAN. THE FACE
WANTED US OUT OF
THE COUNTRY
FOR THIS.

IF HE'S
HEADED TO
THE U.S...



HE'S MOVING
FAST. WE
GOTTA CATCH
HIM.

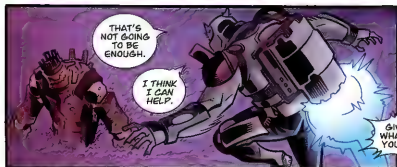
ON IT!



OKAY.

WATER'S
SLOWING
HIM DOWN.

VOOSH!!





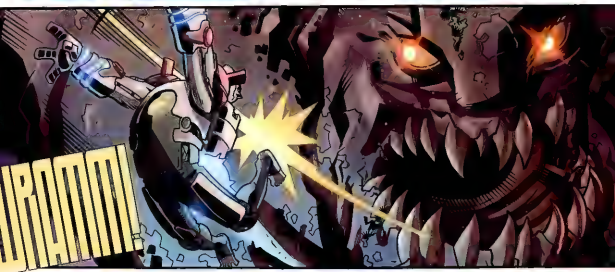
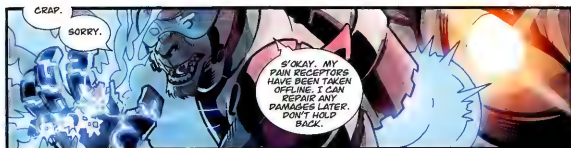
NEAT!



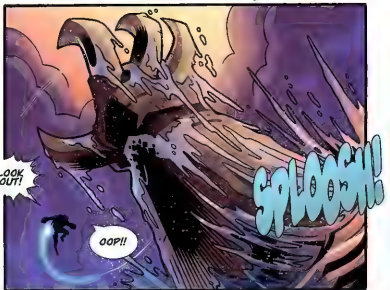
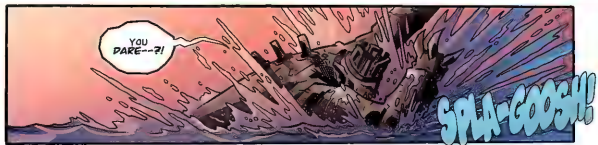
OH---

WOW!

KERZACKLE-POW!!!











I DON'T
GET IT, BIG GUY.
YOU PROBABLY KILLED
THE FACE. WHY ARE YOU
STILL COMING HERE?
WHY ARE YOU STILL
CARRYING OUT HIS
MISSION?

"HIS
MISSION?!"

I'VE COME
TO SLAUGHTER
THOSE WHO
IMPRISONED ME.
THOUGH LONG DEAD
THEMSELVES, THEIR
OFFSPRING NOW
LIVE ON THE ISLAND
YOU SEE BEFORE
YOU.

I WILL
ANNIHILATE ALL
THAT STANDS IN
MY WAY. THE ONES
I SEEK WILL COME TO
ME—OR I WILL KILL ALL.
EITHER WAY, I WILL
RIP THE WORLD
OF THEIR
BLOODLINE.

THEN, I WILL
AWAKEN MY
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS. REJOICE,
LITTLE ONE, FOR
OBLIVION AWAITS
YOUR KIND.



SORRY,
GORG—
BUT I CAN'T
LET YOU DO
THIS!

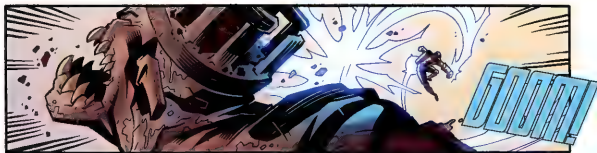


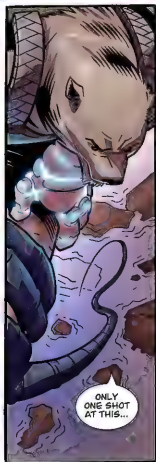
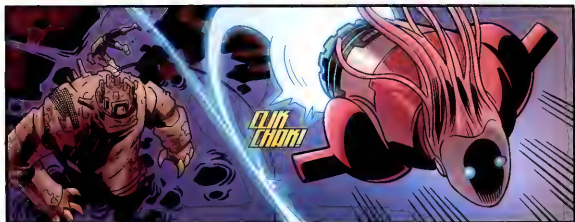
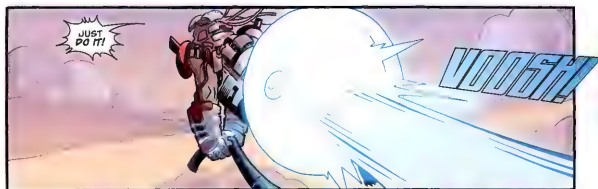
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

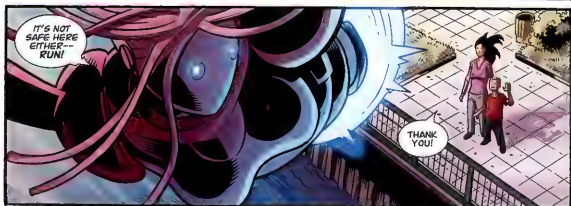


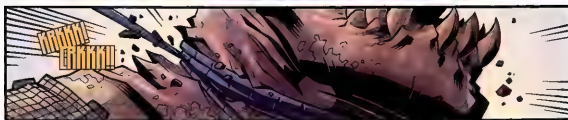
YEAH...

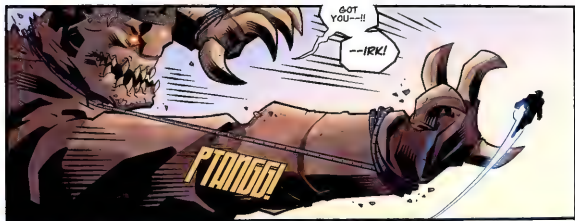
FUNNY.



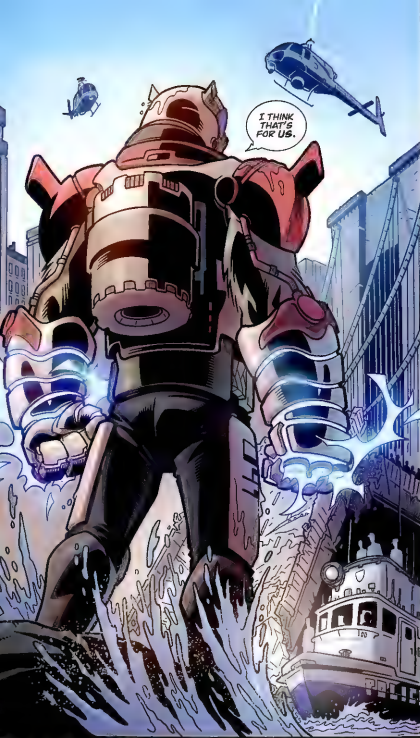












THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFMAN

image

20

\$2.99



ROBERT KIRKMAN

JASON HOWARD

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



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penciler, inker

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GOOD
EVENING, AMERICA,
AND WELCOME TO A
VERY SPECIAL EDITION
OF PATRICIA THOMAS
LIVE. I'M YOUR
HOST, PATRICIA
THOMAS.

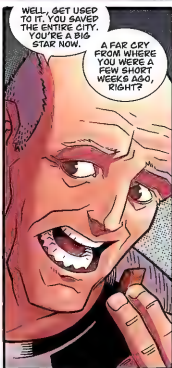
TONIGHT OUR
GUEST WILL BE THE
ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN
HIMSELF, OUR VERY OWN
GARY HAMPTON. HE'S
HERE TO DISCUSS HIS
HEARTBREAKING AND
TRULY INSPIRING
STORY.

WE'LL BE
DISCUSSING THE
RECENT TROUBLES
WITH HIS COMPANY,
HAMPTON INDUSTRIES,
THE BRUTAL MURDER OF
HIS WIFE, HIS WRONGFUL
CONVICTION AND
INCARCERATION FOR THAT
CRIME AND EVERYTHING
HE'S LIVED THROUGH ALL
THE WAY UP TO LAST
WEEK'S STUNNING BATTLE
WITH THE MONSTER GORG
WHERE WOLF-MAN SAVED
THE ENTIRE MANHATTAN
ISLAND AND THE MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE WHO CALL IT
HOME... INCLUDING THIS
HUMBLE REPORTER
YOU SEE BEFORE
YOU.

WE'LL BE
BRINGING GARY
OUT IN A MINUTE
BUT FIRST I'D LIKE
TO REVIEW THE EVENTS
OF HIS LIFE OVER THIS
PAST YEAR SO THAT
EACH AND EVERY
ONE OF YOU KNOW
HIS AMAZING
STORY...



I REMEMBER YOU TELLING ME ABOUT THAT. FUNNY.





I'M
OKAY...

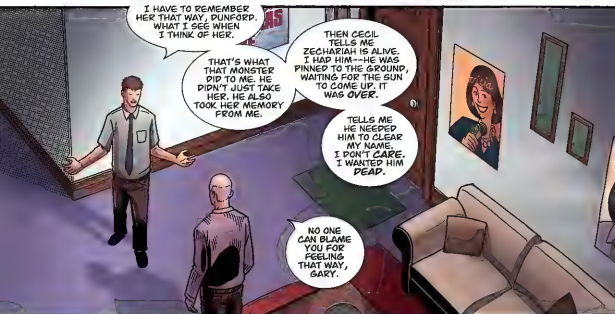
IT
JUST--
NEVER
LEAVES
ME.



REBECCA HAS BEEN
GONE FOR MONTHS
NOW, AND THERE HASN'T
BEEN A SINGLE MOMENT
WHERE I DON'T
THINK OF HER...

DON'T
SEE HER
FACE...
THAT WAY.
TWISTED.

...DON'T
MISS
HER.



I HAVE TO REMEMBER
HER THAT WAY, DUNFORD.
WHAT I SEE WHEN
I THINK OF HER.

THAT'S WHAT
THAT MONSTER
DID TO ME. HE
DIDN'T JUST TAKE
HER. HE ALSO
TOOK HER MEMORY
FROM ME.

THEN CECIL
TELLS ME
ZECHARIAH IS ALIVE.
I HAD HIM--HE WAS
PINNED TO THE GROUND,
WAITING FOR THE SUN
TO COME UP. IT
WAS OVER.

TELLS ME
HE NEEDED
HIM TO CLEAR
MY NAME.
I DON'T CARE.
I WANTED HIM
DEAD.

NO ONE
CAN BLAME
YOU FOR
FEELING
THAT WAY,
GARY.

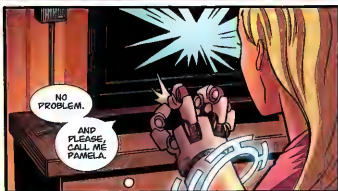
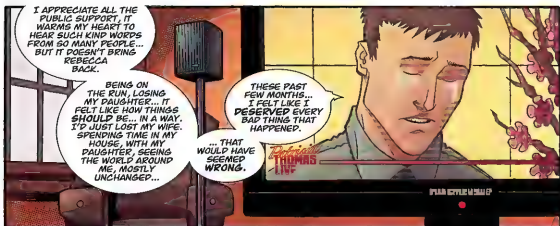


CAN'T THINK
ABOUT THIS NOW.
I DIDN'T EVEN
WANT TO DO THIS.
CECIL SAID I SHOULD
TO HELP PEOPLE
ACCEPT ME AFTER
BEING A PUBLIC
FUGITIVE.

I DON'T
KNOW IF I
CAN DO
THIS...



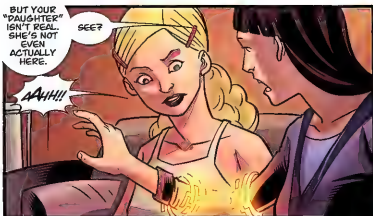
YOU'RE
ON IN FIVE,
MISTER
HAMPTON.



BUT YOUR
"DAUGHTER"
ISN'T REAL.
SHE'S NOT
EVEN
ACTUALLY
HERE.

SEE?

AAHHH!!



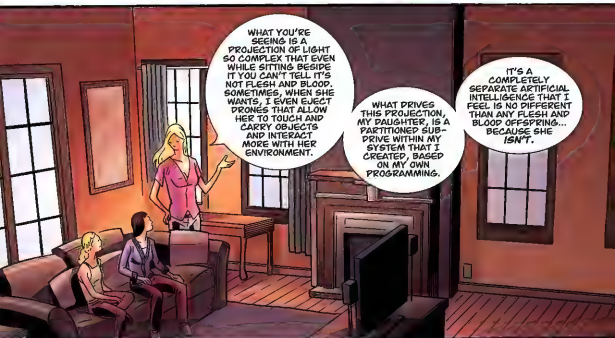
DON'T
TOUCH
ME!
THAT
HURTS!



WHAT YOU'RE
SEEING IS A
PROJECTION OF LIGHT
SO COMPLEX THAT EVEN
WHILE SITTING BESIDE
IT YOU CAN'T TELL IT'S
NOT FLESH AND BLOOD.
SOMETIMES, WHEN SHE
WANTS, I EVEN EJECT
DRONES THAT ALLOW
HER TO TOUCH AND
CARRY OBJECTS
AND INTERACT
MORE WITH HER
ENVIRONMENT.

WHAT DRIVES
THIS PROJECTION,
MY DAUGHTER, IS A
PARTITIONED SUB-
DRIVE WITHIN MY
SYSTEM THAT I
CREATED, BASED
ON MY OWN
PROGRAMMING.

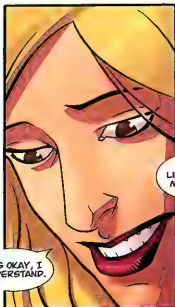
IT'S A
COMPLETELY
SEPARATE ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE THAT I
FEEL IS NO DIFFERENT
THAN ANY FLESH AND
BLOOD OFFSPRING...
BECAUSE SHE
ISN'T.



SORRY, I
DIDN'T MEAN
TO OFFEND
YOU.

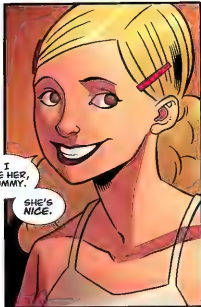
OR YOU,
ELISE.

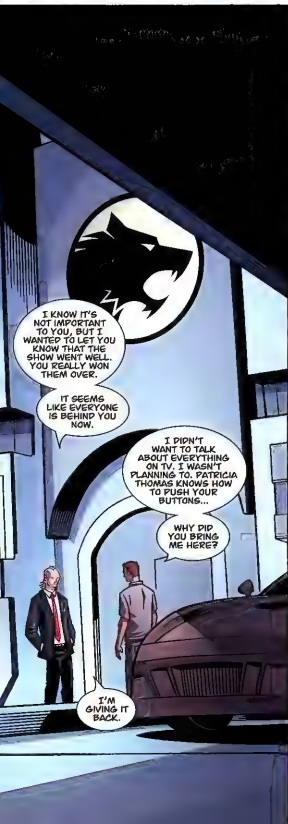
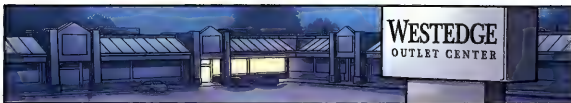
IT'S OKAY, I
UNDERSTAND.



I
LIKE HER,
MOMMY.

SHE'S
NICE.





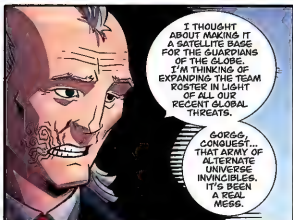
I KNOW IT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THE SHOW WENT WELL. YOU REALLY WON THEM OVER.

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IS BEHIND YOU NOW.

I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING ON TV. I WASN'T PLANNING TO. PATRICIA THOMAS KNOWS HOW TO PUSH YOUR BUTTONS...

WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?

I'M GIVING IT BACK.



I THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING IT A SATELLITE BASE FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE. I'M THINKING OF EXPANDING THE TEAM ROSTER IN LIGHT OF ALL OUR RECENT GLOBAL THREATS.

GORGE, CONQUEST... THAT ARMY OF ALTERNATE UNIVERSE INVINCIBLES. IT'S BEEN A REAL MESS.



I MADE SURE THAT WE TELEPORTED IN ANY INVESTIGATIVE CREWS. THE LOCATION IS STILL SECRET.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO WORK FROM HERE AGAIN. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SELLING IT, LET ME KNOW.



NO. REBECCA HATED THIS PLACE... BUT I CAN'T GET RID OF IT.

IF I DON'T CARRY ON, HER DEATH IS MEANINGLESS. I NEED THIS PLACE.



UNDERSTOOD.

YOU SHOULD SEE THE SALVAGE OPERATION WE'VE GOT UNDERWAY IN THE HUDSON. THERE ARE PIECES OF GORGO IN THERE THE SIZE OF CITY BUSES.

AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ALL OVER US ABOUT RETURNING STONEHENGE... EVEN THOUGH ALL THEY HAVE THERE NOW IS A GIANT CRATER. WHAT, ARE THEY GOING TO DROP THOSE ROCKS IN THE HOLE?

IT'S A MESS.

TELL ME ABOUT ZECHARIAH.

HE'S LOCKED DOWN IN OUR SUBTERRANEAN CELL BLOCK BELOW THE PENTAGON. HIS CELL IS AIR TIGHT. ONCE HE'S CONVICTED OF YOUR WIFE'S MURDER AND WHATEVER WE CAN PIN ON HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO THE ACTIONEERS... HE'LL BE PUT TO DEATH.

WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST LEFT HIM STAKED TO THE GROUND?

FORGIVE ME. I THOUGHT CLEARING YOUR NAME HELD A SLIVER OF IMPORTANCE.

NO. YOU'RE RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.

TELL ME ABOUT THIS WEREWOLF WORKING FOR YOU. THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE COMMUNICATOR.

PROBABLY BEST IF HE TELLS YOU THE STORY HIMSELF.

I THINK HE'D WANT IT THAT WAY.

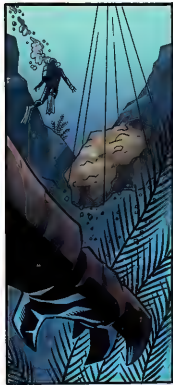
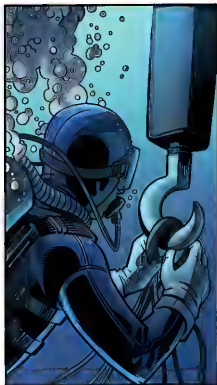
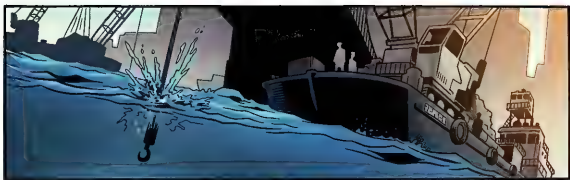
HE SAID I SAVED HIS LIFE, THANKED ME FOR IT.

I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING I WOULD REMEMBER DOING. WHO IS HE?

I'LL SET SOMETHING UP.

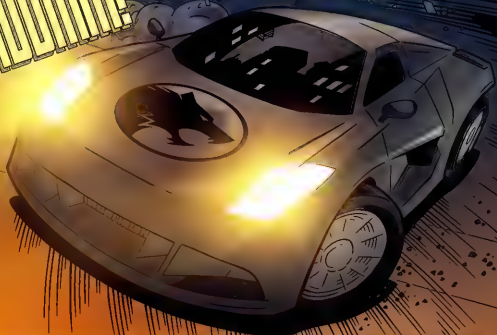
I NEED TO BE GOING NOW.



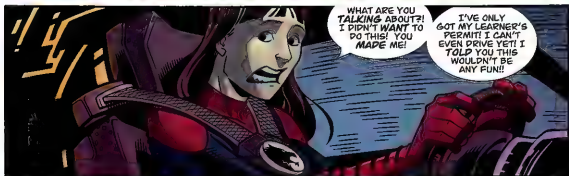




CRASH!!!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE? BE MORE CAREFUL!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS! YOU MADE ME!

I'VE ONLY GOT MY LEARNER'S PERMIT! I CAN'T EVEN DRIVE YET! I TOLD YOU THIS WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN!!



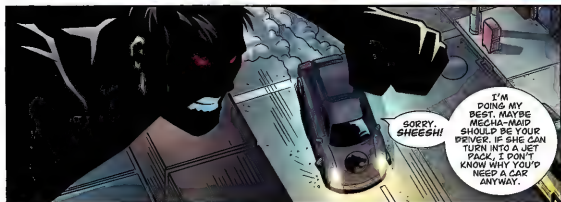
WELL...
JUST SLOW
IT DOWN A
LITTLE UNTIL
YOU GET THE
FEEL OF IT.

I THOUGHT
ALL THE
ADJUSTMENTS
MECHA-MAID DID
WOULD MAKE IT
EASIER TO DRIVE.
SORRY.

IT'S A
QUIET NIGHT--
I'M SURE
WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
RUN INTO
ANYTHING.



CAREFUL!!



SORRY.
SHEESH!

I'M
DOING MY
BEST. MAYBE
MECHA-MAID
SHOULD BE YOUR
DRIVER. IF SHE CAN
TURN INTO A JET
PACK, I DON'T
KNOW WHY YOU'D
NEED A CAR
ANYWAY.



SHE'S HELPED A GREAT
DEAL. I CAN'T BELIEVE
SOME OF THE THINGS
SHE'S DONE WITH THIS
CAR--IT'S AMAZING.
BUT REALLY, I DON'T
KNOW HOW LONG
SHE'S GOING TO
STAY.

SHE'S JUST
STAYING WITH
US WHILE SHE
FIGURES
THINGS
OUT.

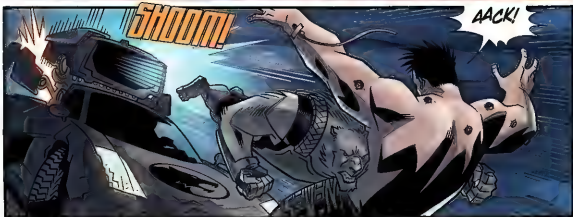
WHETHER I
LIKE IT OR NOT,
YOU HAVE POWERS
NOW. THAT VAMPIRE
BLOOD HAS REMAINED
IN YOUR SYSTEM--
YOUR POWERS
AREN'T GOING
AWAY.

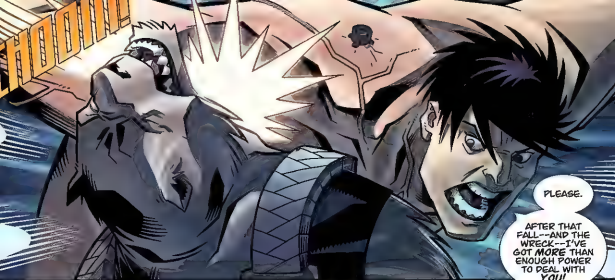
I'D RATHER
HAVE YOU OUT
HERE WITH ME--
THAN DOING
WHATEVER IT IS
YOU'D DO ON
YOUR OWN.



WELL I
DON'T--

AAIEEEEE!





PLEASE.

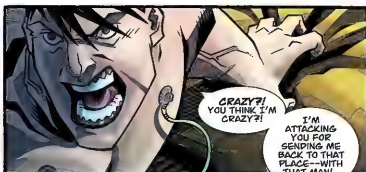
AFTER THAT FALL--AND THE WRECK--I'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO DEAL WITH YOU!



HEY! I RECOGNIZE YOU!

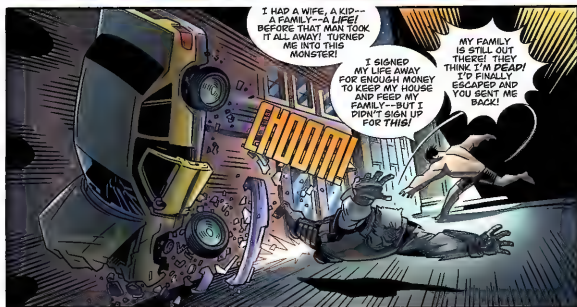
YOU'RE THAT CRAZY GUY WHO WAS TRYING TO KILL THAT SCIENTIST! WHAT'S YOUR DEAL? WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME NOW?

*SEE ISSUE 5.



CRAZY?! YOU THINK I'M CRAZY!

I'M ATTACKING YOU FOR SENDING ME BACK TO THAT PLACE--WITH THAT MAN!



I HAD A WIFE, A KID-- A FAMILY--A LIFE! BEFORE THAT MAN TOOK IT ALL AWAY! TURNED ME INTO THIS MONSTER!

I SIGNED MY LIFE AWAY FOR ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP MY HOUSE AND FEED MY FAMILY--BUT I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!

MY FAMILY IS STILL OUT THERE! THEY THINK I'M DEAD! I'D FINALLY ESCAPED AND YOU SENT ME BACK!



DAD!

LOOK OUT!



THIS BETTER WORK!

THAP!



A close-up panel showing a robotic wolf head on the left, baring its teeth. On the right, a man with dark hair and a determined, slightly angry expression looks towards the robot. A red sound effect 'GURGA' is visible on the right side of the panel.

EVEN IF YOUR STORY IS TRUE, AS I RECALL, THAT SCIENTIST WAS RUNNING FROM YOU. IF YOU ESCAPED, WHY'D YOU HANG AROUND AND TRY TO HURT HIM-- WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO AFTER YOUR FAMILY?

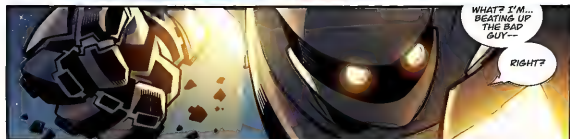
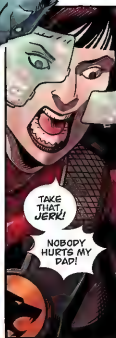
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE SAFE! I HAVE TO--



A large panel showing a massive, dark-colored robot with a wolf-like head and multiple mechanical limbs. The robot is standing in a city street, surrounded by debris and smoke. In the foreground, a man and a robotic wolf are looking up at the robot. The man has a bloody wound on his chest. The robot's chest has a circular emblem with a wolf head.

LOOK, DAD!

HERE COMES TROUBLE!!





I DON'T EVEN
KNOW. THE GUY
HAS SOME KIND
OF STORY.

BUT JUST
LOOK AT HIM--
PUNCHING HIM
LIKE THAT ONLY
MAKES HIM
STRONGER.



OH.

CRAP.



KA-CHOOOM!



CHLOE!

GOOM!

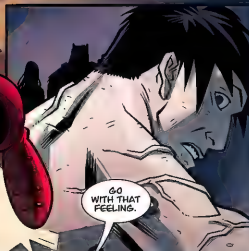


I SWEAR--
IF YOU'VE
HURT
HER...



THERE
IS NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
TO HURT
ME.

BELIEVE
THAT.





I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, GARY--I WAS LISTENING IN ON THE EAR PIECE.

DO KEEP IT IN AT ALL TIMES. I WAS ON MY WAY TO HELP. IT'S A USEFUL TOOL.

OKAY, BIG GUY...



...WE CAN DO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THINGS. TALKING THINGS OVER WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT IF YOU PREFER, THESE TWO SUPERHEROES I BROUGHT WITH ME CAN TRY TO BEAT THE SNOT OUT OF YOU BEFORE WE DO THAT.

I HEAR YOU'RE A FAMILY MAN? I SYMPATHIZE WITH THAT. AS DOES WOLF-MAN, I BELIEVE.

THAT WOULD BE MESSY. SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY PRETTY CALM, IF YOU APPROVE, I'D LIKE TO JUST MOVE INTO THE DISCUSSION PART OF THE EVENING.



I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING PEOPLE FOR NO REASON. HE SENT ME BACK TO THE COMPOUND--I WAS MAD, I'M SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED THIS.

IT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING...



GOOD TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT. COME WITH ME... LET'S ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING.

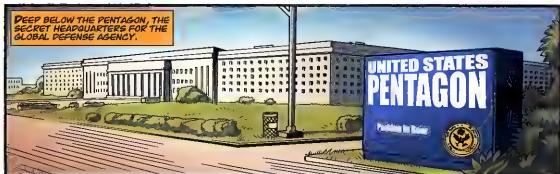
WE CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE, WOLF-MAN.

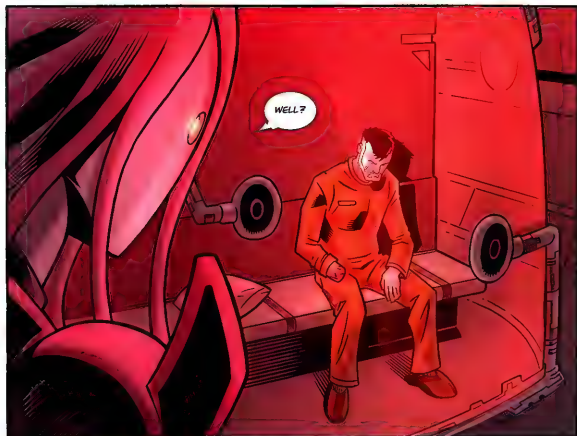
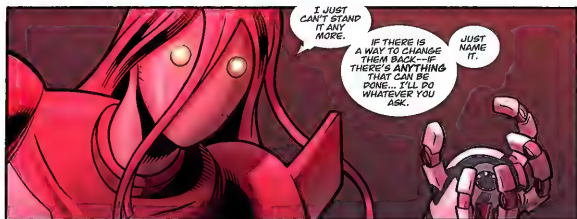


SUITS ME.

WE SHOULD PROBABLY BE GETTING BACK. I'M SURE MECHA-RAID'S WONDERING WHY WE HAVEN'T REPORTED IN.

SHE PROBABLY WON'T BE TOO HAPPY ABOUT THE CAR.





THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFGANG MAN

Image

21

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LEGACY
PART ONE OF FIVE

**ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA**

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™



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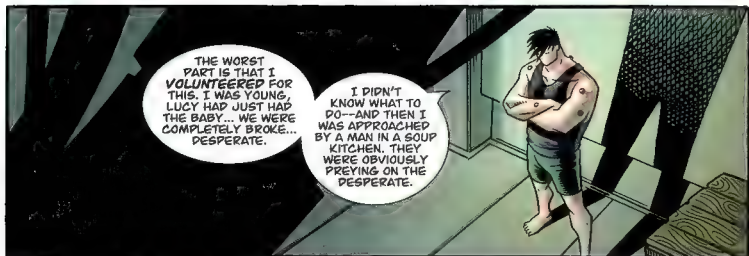
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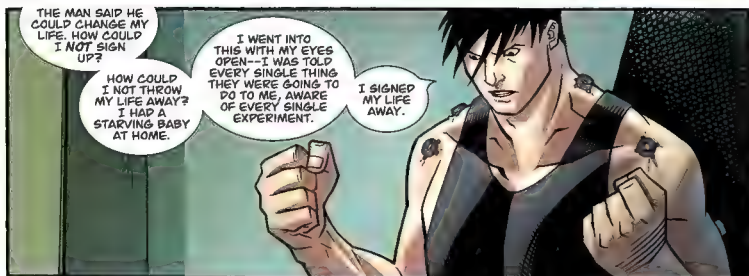
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THE WORST PART IS THAT I VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS. I WAS YOUNG, LUCY HAD JUST HAD THE BABY... WE WERE COMPLETELY BROKE... DESPERATE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO--AND THEN I WAS APPROACHED BY A MAN IN A SOUP KITCHEN. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY PREYING ON THE DESPERATE.



THE MAN SAID HE COULD CHANGE MY LIFE. HOW COULD I NOT SIGN UP?

HOW COULD I NOT THROW MY LIFE AWAY? I HAD A STARVING BABY AT HOME.

I WENT INTO THIS WITH MY EYES OPEN--I WAS TOLD EVERY SINGLE THING THEY WERE GOING TO DO TO ME, AWARE OF EVERY SINGLE EXPERIMENT.

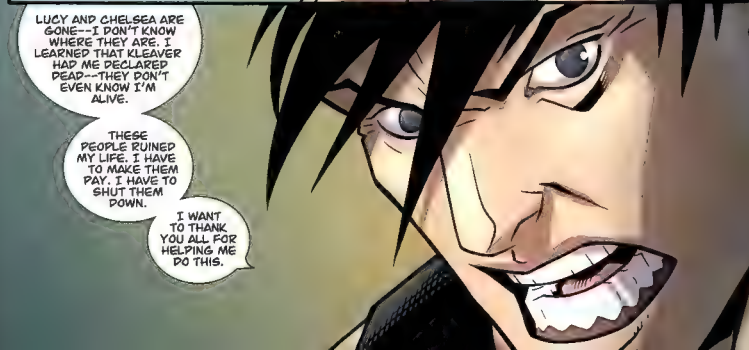
I SIGNED MY LIFE AWAY.



I'M FINE WITH WHAT I'VE BECOME, I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR THIS--BUT SOLDIERTECH NEVER EXPLAINED TO ME THAT I WAS STUCK WORKING FOR THEM FOR LIFE--NEVER TOLD ME I COULDN'T LEAVE.

I DIDN'T DO THIS FOR MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER SO THAT I COULD LOSE THEM.

I WANTED OUT--AND ALL DOCTOR KLEAVER WOULD TELL ME WAS "NO." THEY THINK THEY OWN ME.



LUCY AND CHELSEA ARE GONE--I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. I LEARNED THAT KLEAVER HAD ME DECLARED DEAD--THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M ALIVE.

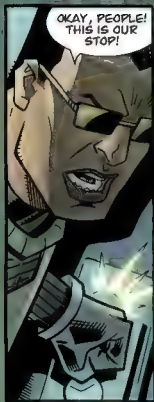
THESE PEOPLE RUINED MY LIFE. I HAVE TO MAKE THEM PAY. I HAVE TO SHUT THEM DOWN.

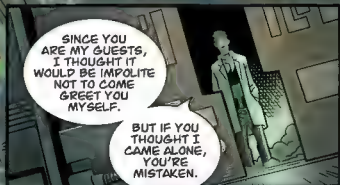
I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING ME DO THIS.



I BELIEVE
I SPEAK FOR
ALL OF US
HERE WHEN
I SAY:

"DON'T
MENTION IT,
IT'S OUR
PLEASURE."



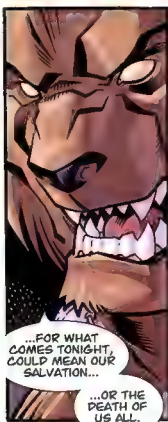




YOUR
FRIEND
IMPACT THERE
WAS NUMBER
SEVEN.

HE WAS
THE NIPPOINT
IN OUR
EXPERIMENTS.

MEET
EIGHT
THROUGH
THIRTEEN.





HE HAS
COME!

THE
ELDER!

QUIET!
SHOW
RESPECT
FOR YOUR
MASTER.

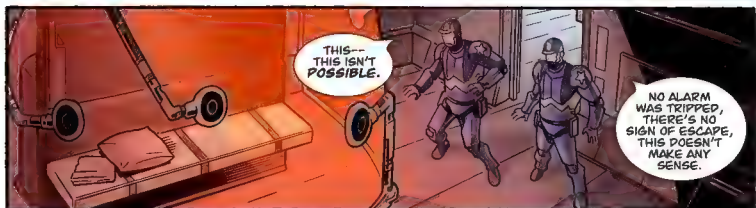
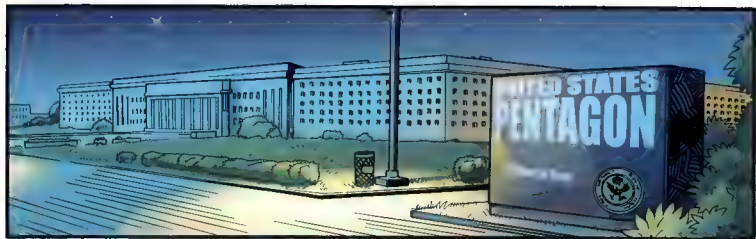


YOUR VISIT
IS UNEXPECTED
BUT WELCOME.
WHAT WILL YOU
HAVE US DO,
SIRE?

CALL
FORTH OUR
BROTHERS
AND
SISTERS.



IT IS
TIME.





THIS IS
PRIVATE
PROPERTY,
JERK! YOU
AIN'T MAKING IT
OUT OF HERE
ALIVE!

ARE YOU
INSANE?! WE'RE
HERE TO RESCUE
YOU--ALL
OF YOU!





NOPE--
NOT
YET?

HOW ABOUT
NOW? IMPACT,
WE WERE ABLE
TO FIND YOUR
FAMILY.

LUCY!
OH MY
GOD!

AND IS THIS
CHELSEA?!

I WORK IN A
LOT OF GRAY AREAS--
IT'S JUST PART OF
WHAT I DO. SADLY, IT'S A
LARGE PART OF
WHAT I DO...

...IT'S GOOD
TO HAVE ONE
FIRMLY IN THE
"GOOD" COLUMN
EVERY NOW
AND THEN.

I HEAR
YOU.

THE PLANE WILL BE BY
TO PICK YOU UP SHORTLY.
NO NEED TO WASTE MORE
OF THE TAXPAYERS'
MONEY.

TELEPORTATION
ISN'T CHEAP.

TELL THE BIG
GUYS TO WAIT
AROUND.

I CAN'T
GIVE THEM
THEIR MONEY
UNTIL THEY SIGN
CONTRACTS.
SOMEONE
WILL BE BY
SHORTLY.





I KNOW ABOUT THE MOON RAGE, HOW YOU LOSE CONTROL. I THINK A PART OF YOU SAW I WAS SICK, MAYBE YOU SMELLED IT ON ME, KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE MY LIFE.

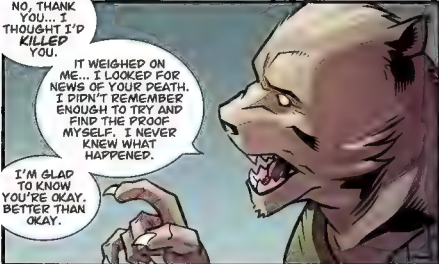
CECIL FOUND ME AFTER I WAS BROUGHT IN... HELPED ME FIGURE OUT WHAT I WAS. HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT US THAN HE LETS ON. DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT, HONESTLY. HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT MYSELF.

SUDDENLY, I'M BACK IN THE GAME, WORKING FOR THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY...



I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER.

THANK YOU.



NO, THANK YOU... I THOUGHT I'D KILLED YOU.

IT WEIGHED ON ME... I LOOKED FOR NEWS OF YOUR DEATH. I DIDN'T REMEMBER ENOUGH TO TRY AND FIND THE PROOF MYSELF. I NEVER KNEW WHAT HAPPENED.

I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU'RE OKAY. BETTER THAN OKAY.



BOY, MECHA-MAID SURE LEFT IN A HURRY.

WHO CARES? HOW DID I DO? I DID GOOD, DIDN'T I? YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME KEEP DOING THIS, AREN'T YOU?

YOU DID GOOD. THIS WAS A GOOD TRIAL RUN, HAVING ALL THOSE OTHERS AROUND--BUT I SEE YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. ANOTHER YEAR AND YOU WON'T NEED MY PERMISSION.

YOU'LL STILL NEED TO FINISH SCHOOL.

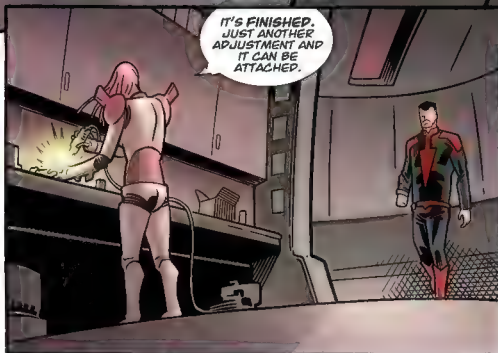
CECIL SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ME A TUTOR FOR THAT. SOME WOMAN HE KNOWS...



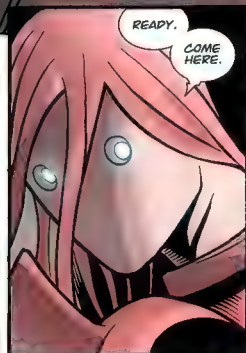
BETTER THAN YOU BEING SPOTTED HANGING AROUND OUTSIDE. SORRY I'M LATE, MISSION RAN LONG.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, I LET MYSELF IN.

WHERE IS IT? I WAS TOLD IT WOULD BE DONE BY NOW.



IT'S FINISHED. JUST ANOTHER ADJUSTMENT AND IT CAN BE ATTACHED.



READY.

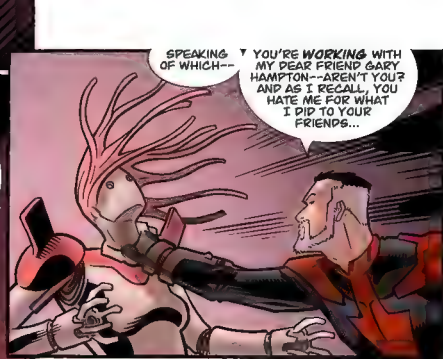
COME HERE.



DO YOU
APPROVE?

I DO.

PRIMARILY
A WEAPON--NOT
GOING TO BE DOING
A LOT OF SHOPPING
WITH THIS HAND,
BUT THEN, I PLAN ON
DOING LITTLE ELSE
THAN GETTING MY
REVENGE AGAINST
THOSE WHO TRIED
TO KILL ME.

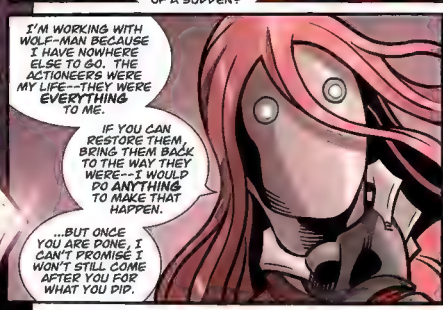


SPEAKING
OF WHICH--

YOU'RE WORKING
WITH
MY DEAR FRIEND GARY
HAMPTON--AREN'T YOU?
AND AS I RECALL, YOU
HATE ME FOR WHAT
I DID TO YOUR
FRIENDS...



...CAN YOU
SEE WHY I'D BE
SKEPTICAL OF YOUR
WILLINGNESS TO
HELP ME ALL
OF A SUDDEN?



I'M WORKING WITH
WOLF-MAN BECAUSE
I HAVE NOWHERE
ELSE TO GO. THE
ACTIONEERS WERE
MY LIFE--THEY WERE
EVERYTHING
TO ME.

IF YOU CAN
RESTORE THEM,
BRING THEM BACK
TO THE WAY THEY
WERE--I WOULD
DO ANYTHING
TO MAKE THAT
HAPPEN.

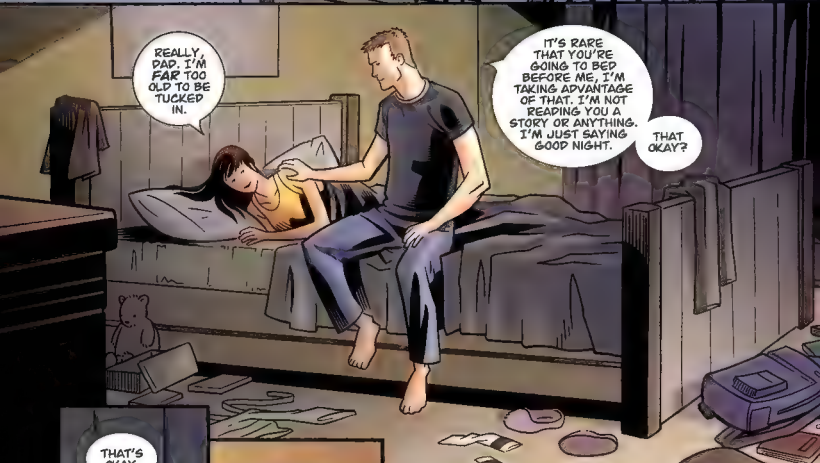
...BUT ONCE
YOU ARE DONE, I
CAN'T PROMISE I
WON'T STILL COME
AFTER YOU FOR
WHAT YOU DID.



FAIR
ENOUGH.

WOULD BE
FAR FROM THE
ONLY ONE OUT
THERE WITH
ILL FEELINGS
TOWARD
ME.

IT'LL TAKE
TIME, WHAT
YOU'RE ASKING.
I'LL BE IN
TOUCH.



REALLY, DAD, I'M FAR TOO OLD TO BE TUCKED IN.

IT'S RARE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BED BEFORE ME, I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT. I'M NOT READING YOU A STORY OR ANYTHING. I'M JUST SAYING GOOD NIGHT.

THAT OKAY?



THAT'S OKAY.

I LOVE YOU, DAD.



I LOVE YOU TOO, CHLOE.

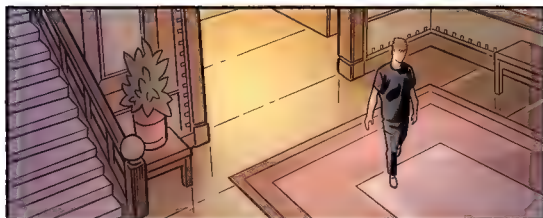
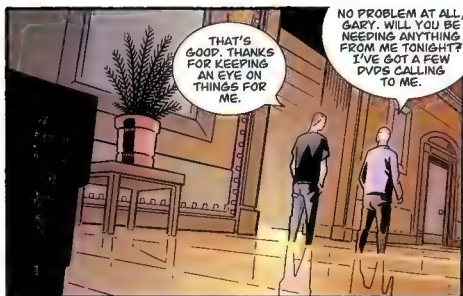
GOOD NIGHT.

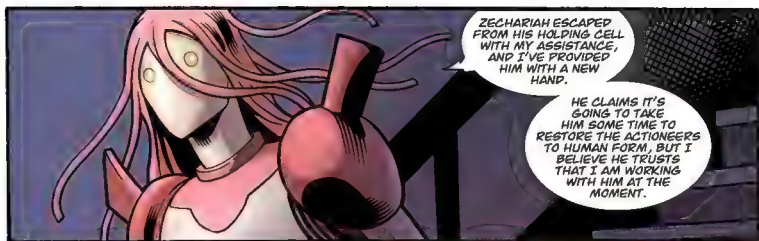


FEELS GOOD TO HAVE EVERYTHING BACK TO... ALMOST NORMAL.

EVERYTHING OKAY HERE TODAY?

A FEW MORE REPORTERS LOOKING TO INTERVIEW YOU. NOTHING CRAZY. THE CROWDS HAVE DIED DOWN--IT'S EASIER TO KEEP THEM OFF THE ESTATE NOW.





ZECARIAH ESCAPED FROM HIS HOLDING CELL WITH MY ASSISTANCE, AND I'VE PROVIDED HIM WITH A NEW HAND.

HE CLAIMS IT'S GOING TO TAKE HIM SOME TIME TO RESTORE THE ACTIONEERS TO HUMAN FORM, BUT I BELIEVE HE TRUSTS THAT I AM WORKING WITH HIM AT THE MOMENT.



THEN SO FAR EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT.

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT COULD DO TO MY PUBLIC IMAGE--TURNING PEOPLE AGAINST ME AGAIN. A CELL IS TOO GOOD FOR THAT BASTARD.

HE'S GOING TO DIE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN™

image

22

\$2.99



LEGACY
PART TWO OF FIVE

**ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FEO & IVAN PLASCENCIA**

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



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writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
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FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
colorists

AUBREY SITTERSON
editor

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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THE TIME
OF THE
GATHERING
IS UPON
US!

LONG HAVE
YOU WAITED FOR
THIS MOMENT.
GENERATIONS OF
YOU HAVE PASSED,
HOPING TO LIVE TO
EXPERIENCE THE
GATHERING, TO NO
AVAIL... YOU WILL
NOT SUFFER
THIS FATE.

REJOICE!

REJOICE
FOR WHAT
YOU ARE
ABOUT TO
ENDURE!

NOW IS
A TIME OF GREAT
CHANGE AND
UPHEAVAL. THE
FUTURE OF OUR
PEOPLE IS CALLED
INTO QUESTION. THESE
ARE VERY DARK
TIMES FOR OUR
KIND.

THE ACTIONS
WE NOW TAKE
WILL ENSURE OUR
CONTINUED SURVIVAL
FOR GENERATIONS TO
COME. WE WILL BRING
ABOUT A SECOND
GOLDEN AGE--A
NEW BEGINNING--
A REBIRTH!

GONE WILL
BE THE DAYS
OF CLINGING
TO SHADOWS,
EXISTING
ON THE FRINGE
OF MAN'S
WORLD.

**NOW
IS OUR
TIME!**

AT THIS
PRECISE
MOMENT, IT
BEGINS. KNOW
THIS MOMENT
WELL, FOR IT
MEANS THE END
OF THE OLD
WAYS AND THE
BEGINNING OF
THE NEW.

THIS
MOMENT
IS NOW
PASSED...



**...SO
BEGINS THE
GATHERING!**



NEW YORK CITY.

SOMEONE'S
MADE A MESS
OF THIS
PLACE.

GLOBAL TV

HEY,
CONSTRUCT!
DID YOU
MISS ME?

WOLF-MAN!
YOU HAVE
GOT TO
BE KIDDING ME!
YOU AGAIN?
ARE YOU
STALKING
ME?

SERIOUSLY!

YOU SEND
ME TO PRISON,
THEN GET SENT
TO THAT SAME
PRISON. WE ESCAPE
TOGETHER, AND
WORK FOR THE FACE
TOGETHER, UNTIL
HE DIES... AND
NOW THIS?

AND
LET ME
GUESS...

--YOU
WERE NEVER
REALLY A
BAD GUY,
RIGHT?

SOMEONE'S
BEEN WATCHING
THE NEWS.

OH, AND
DIDN'T YOU
HEAR? THE
FACE IS BACK
IN PRISON.

BE SURE
TO SAY "HI"
TO HIM FOR
ME!

KRANGG!





THE WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER, BUILT ATOP WOLF-MAN'S SECRET LAIR.

WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER

NO, YOU
CAN'T DO
THIS.
YOU JUST
CAN'T.

WE'RE NOT DOING
ANYTHING. WE'RE
SIMPLY TALKING. WE'RE
TALKED TO HER, WE ARE
JUST RELAYING TO
YOU WHAT YOUR
DAUGHTER
WANTS.

WHAT YOU'RE
DOING COULD BE
CONSIDERED A
FORM OF CHILD-
ENDANGERMENT.

ENDANGERMENT?
ARE YOU INSANE?!

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT. YOU DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT MY
DAUGHTER
AND ME!

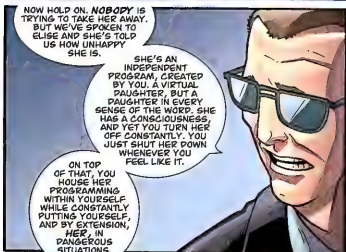
HOW DARE
YOU COME
HERE AND SAY
THESE THINGS
TO ME!

MY BRAIN MAY
BE HUMAN BUT
MY BODY IS
COMPLETELY
ROBOTIC.

I WAS SENT
HERE TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT THIS
BECAUSE I DO SHARE
A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE
WITH YOU... AND I HAVE
TO ADMIT, I AGREE
WITH WHAT THEY'RE
SAYING.

GET
OUT.

MECHA-MAID.
PLEASE. DON'T
MAKE THIS ANY
WORSE THAN IT
HAS TO BE.





I KNOW
HOW IT IS--TO
FEEL LIKE YOUR
CHILD IS TURNING
AGAINST YOU.
BELIEVE ME,
I'VE BEEN
THERE.

YOU HAVE
TO LET THEM
GO AT A CERTAIN
POINT. THAT'S
PART OF THE
PROCESS. YOU
THINK I WANT
CHLOE OUT THERE
RISKING HER
LIFE WITH
ME?

BUT SHE'S
GOOD, BETTER
THAN I GIVE HER
CREDIT FOR. SHE
CAN HANDLE
HERSELF.



BUT
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
ELISE--SHE'S
A PART OF
ME.

I CAN'T
LET HER GO.
ESPECIALLY
NOT BECAUSE
THEY SAY
SO!



I KNOW YOU'RE
ANGRY AT THEM
FOR TRYING TO
INTERFERE IN YOUR
LIFE--BUT LOOK AT
IT THIS WAY. THEY'RE
TREATING ELISE LIKE
A BIOLOGICAL
CHILD--NOT A
MACHINE.

THAT
HAS TO
COUNT FOR
SOMETHING.



IT'S
HIM.

NO...

DONALD?
TRUST ME--
HE'S NOT
OUT TO GET
YOU.



IT'S ZECHARIAH.
HE'S CONTACTING
ME.

IT'S
TIME.



LET'S
GO!



HANG
BACK--I
DON'T WANT
HIM TO KNOW
YOU'RE
HERE.

YOU'RE
LATE.

STOP STALLING.
THE ACTIONEERS--
YOU AGREED TO
MAKE THEM HUMAN
AGAIN IF I HELPED
YOU ESCAPE.

TELL ME
HOW YOU'VE
WASTED
ENOUGH OF
MY TIME.



I'VE BEEN
GATHERING THE
ITEMS NECESSARY
FOR A REVERSION--
IT'S A COMPLICATED
PROCESS, MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT THAN
TURNING. YOU
HAVE TO TRUST
ME.

I NEED
MORE TIME--
AND HELP. I
CAME HERE TO ASK
YOU TO RELEASE
THE ACTIONEERS. I
COULD USE THEM
TO GAIN THE FINAL
ITEMS NEEDED IN
THE PROCESS.

IT
WOULD
CERTAINLY
SPEED
THINGS UP.



NO--IT'S
A TRICK! THIS
HAS GONE
ON LONG
ENOUGH!

I AGREE.
I WOULD NEVER
RELEASE THE
ACTIONEERS
WHILE THEY'RE
STILL UNDER
YOUR
CONTROL!

WOLF-MAN--
FORGIVE ME
IF I'M NOT
SURPRISED IN
THE LEAST.

SHROOK!



YOU'VE SKATED
BY UNSCATHED--
YOUR EVIL
HAS GONE
UNPUNISHED--

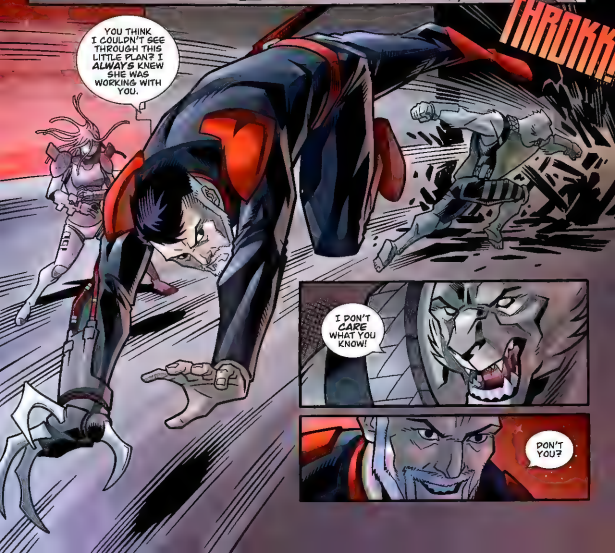
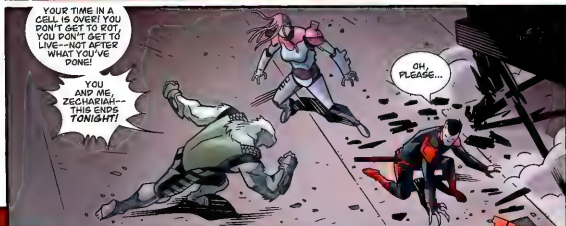
NO
MORE!

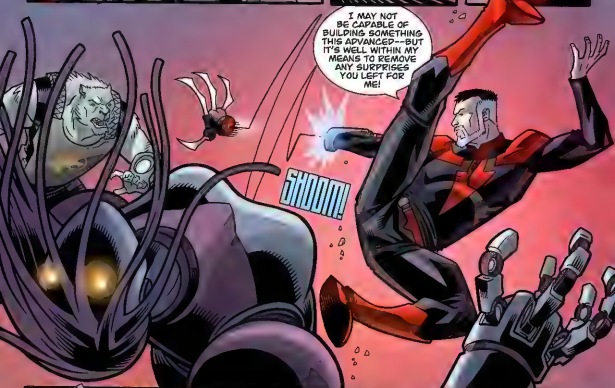


OH,
PLEASE!

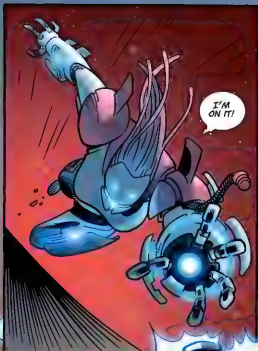
DON'T FLATTER
YOURSELF BECAUSE
I UNDERESTIMATE
YOU LAST TIME. YOU
AND YOUR NEW ROBOT
GIRLFRIEND
DON'T STAND A
CHANCE.

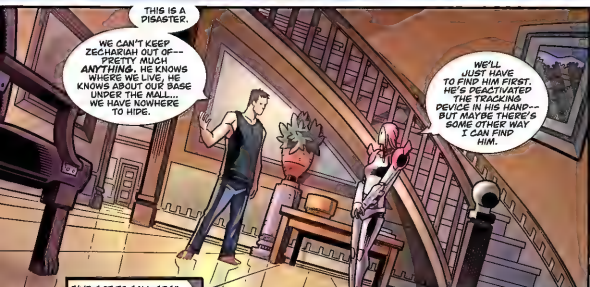
SHROOK!











THIS IS A
DISASTER.

WE CAN'T KEEP
ZECHARIAH OUT OF--
PRETTY MUCH
ANYTHING. HE KNOWS
WHERE WE LIVE, HE
KNOWS ABOUT OUR BASE
UNDER THE MALL...
WE HAVE NOWHERE
TO HIDE.

WE'LL
JUST HAVE
TO FIND HIM FIRST.
HE'S DEACTIVATED
THE TRACKING
DEVICE IN HIS HAND--
BUT MAYBE THERE'S
SOME OTHER WAY
I CAN FIND
HIM.

I'VE GOT TO CALL CECIL,
FIRST. I HAVE TO COME
CLEAN ABOUT ALL THIS--
AND BEG HIM TO KEEP
CHLOE AND DUNFORD IN
A SAFE LOCATION UNTIL
THIS IS OVER.

ARE YOU
SURE THAT'S
NECESSARY?

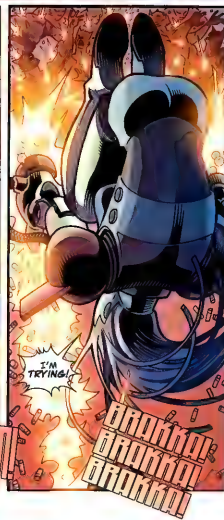
IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT I COULD
CONSTRUCT A SONIC
EMITTER, TUNED TO
THE UNIQUE MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE OF THE
ALLOY'S USED IN
ZECHARIAH'S
HAND.

IT WOULD BE TOO
SHORT RANGE TO
USE TO FIND HIM--
BUT IT WOULD
DETECT HIS
ARRIVAL.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND!
HE COULD
ATTACK AT ANY
MOMENT.

HE COULD
BE ON HIS
WAY HERE
RIGHT
NOW!







I WAS THERE, TOO FAR
AWAY TO DO ANYTHING,
BUT I SAW IT ALL.

A RED ASSASSIN
SOMEHOW FREQ-JUMPED
DIRECTLY INTO THE
CITADEL. HIS EXCELLENCY
WAS SECONDS AWAY
FROM DEATH.

THE REST OF HIS GUARD
DETAIL WAS EITHER TOO
SURPRISED OR
TOO SLOW
TO HELP.

BUT CADE IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL.
HE TOOK OUT THE ASSASSIN
BEFORE MOST EVEN REALIZED
WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

KRAKK!

CODE BLUE

BIRTH OF A HERO

PART 1 OF 4

STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD



...IT WAS
AMAZING.

I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT THE
REDS USED A FREQUENCY
JUMP TO ATTACK RIGHT
HERE, RIGHT IN
THE CITADEL.

YEAH, THAT PART
IS BEING KEPT OUT OF
THE PUBLIC. BUT THE
ARMISTICE IS BROKEN
FOR SURE NOW.



OPEN WAR
IS COMING.



SO, THE GENERAL
THINKS THAT CADE
IS THE ONE WE NEED
FOR THIS?

HE IS
CONVINCED.

AND
YOU?



VACATION'S
OVER,
SOLDIER.

ELYN, I WISH
I COULD SAY IT WAS
GOOD TO SEE YOU.

SORRY,
CADE. MISSION
PREP IN ONE
HOUR.



YOU
READY FOR
THIS, SON?

YES, SIR.
GET IN. RECON.
GET OUT. PIECE
OF CAKE.



THAT'S IT. NO ENEMY
CONTACT. WE JUST JUMPED
A LARGE QUANTITY OF BUSTED
EQUIPMENT TO THE NORTH OF YOUR
TARGET. IT'S GOING TO LOOK TO THE
REDS LIKE A FAILED TROOP TRANSPORT.
THAT AREA WILL HAVE THEIR ATTENTION
AND GIVE YOU SOME SPACE TO MOVE.
COMPLETE YOUR MISSION QUICKLY,
THEN LAY LOW UNTIL WE
CALL YOU BACK.



A JUMP SPACE WILL OPEN
NEAR YOU IN TWO DAYS. IT'S KEYED
TO YOUR BIOLOGY SO IT DOESN'T
MATTER *WHERE* YOU ARE, BUT ONCE
IT OPENS GET THROUGH QUICK.
YOU'LL ONLY HAVE A
FEW SECONDS.



YOU'RE
A REAL HERO,
SON.



GOOD
LUCK, CADE.



SEE YOU
SOON.



CONTINUED...

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFMAN

Image

23

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LEGACY
PART THREE OF FIVE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
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FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
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SINA GRACE
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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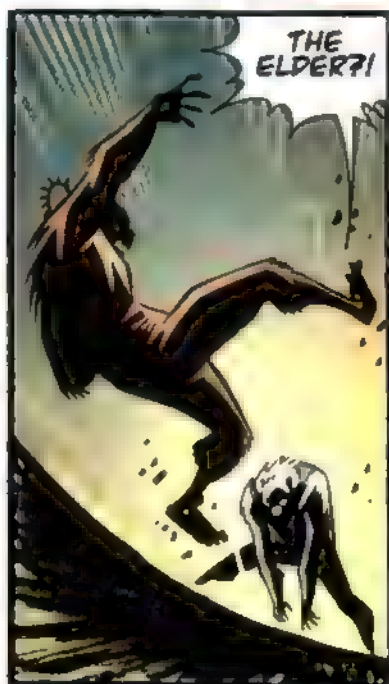
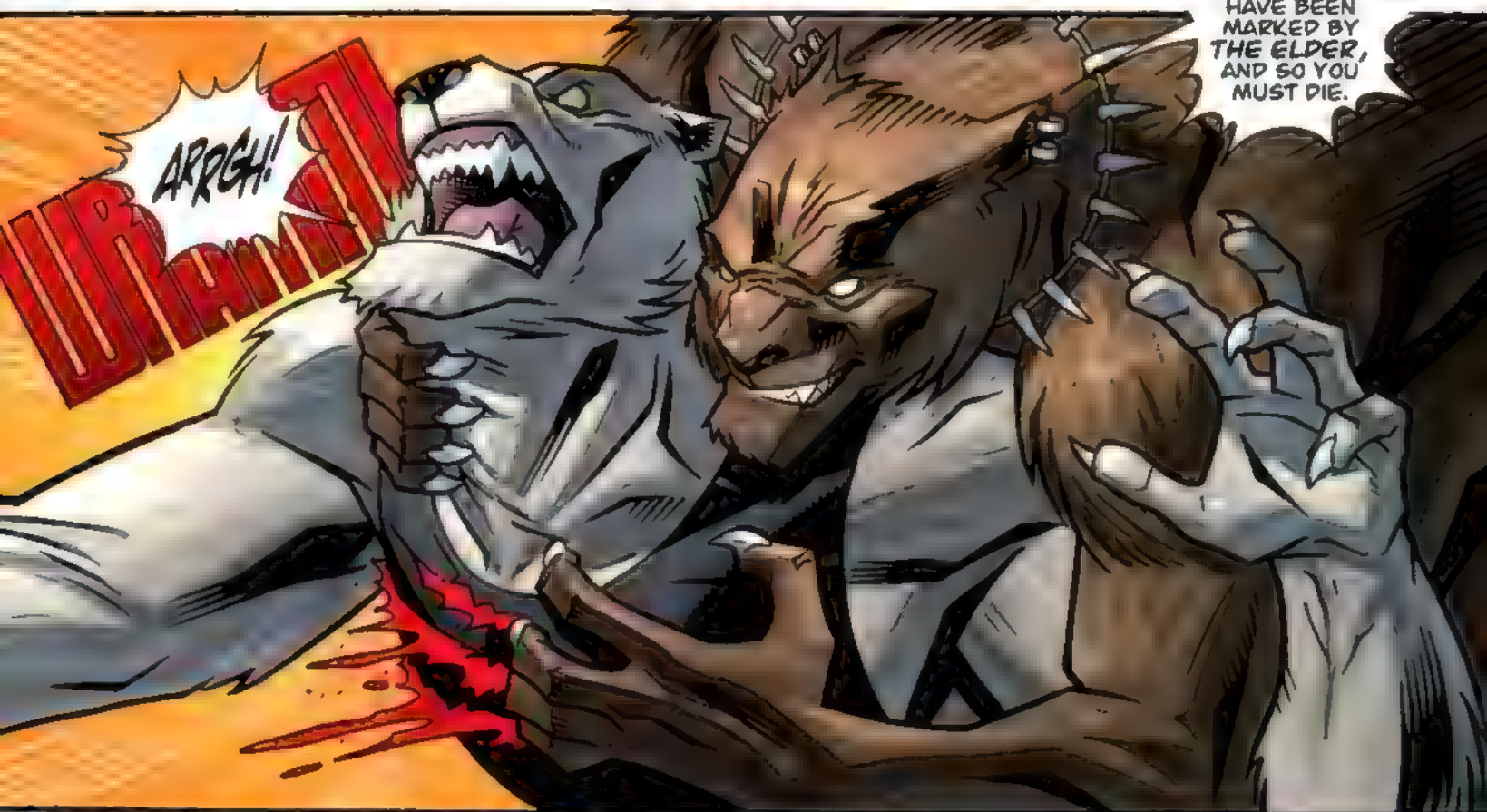
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Vincent Mirra - production artist

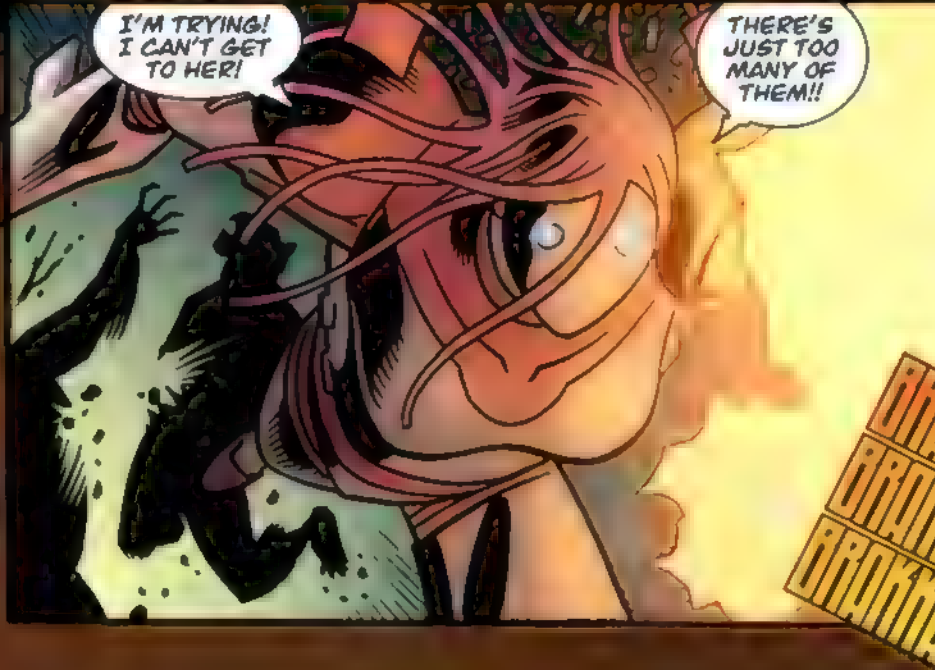
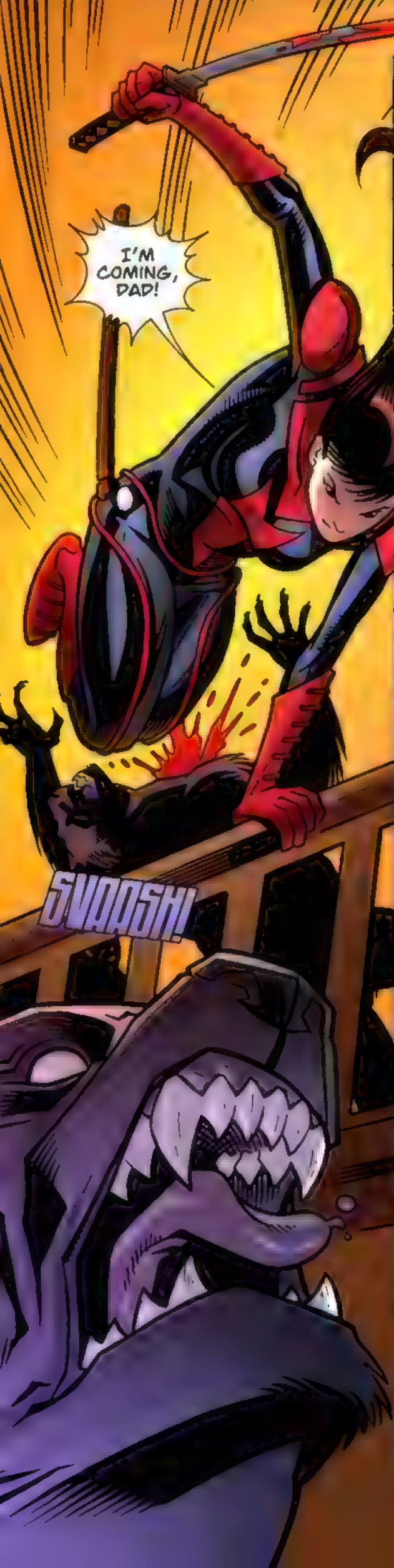
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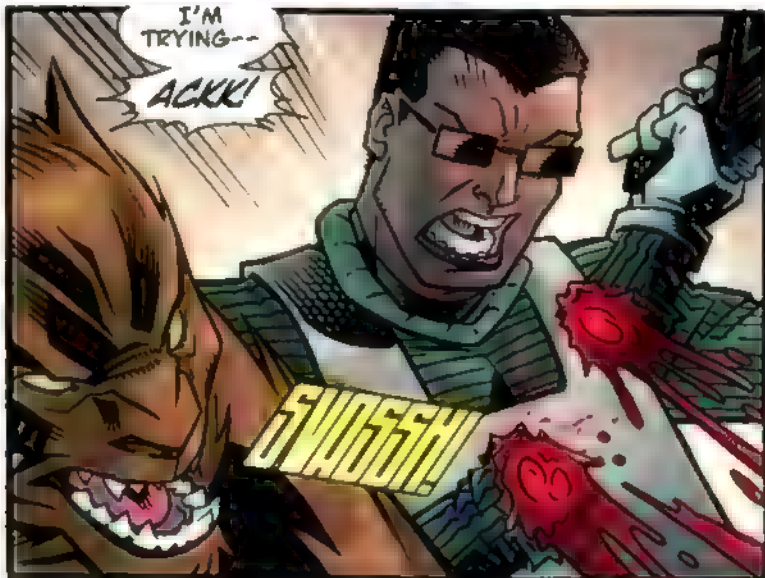
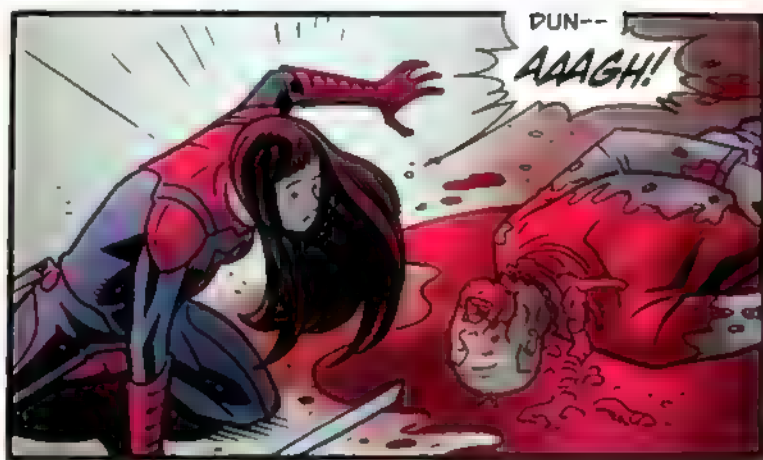


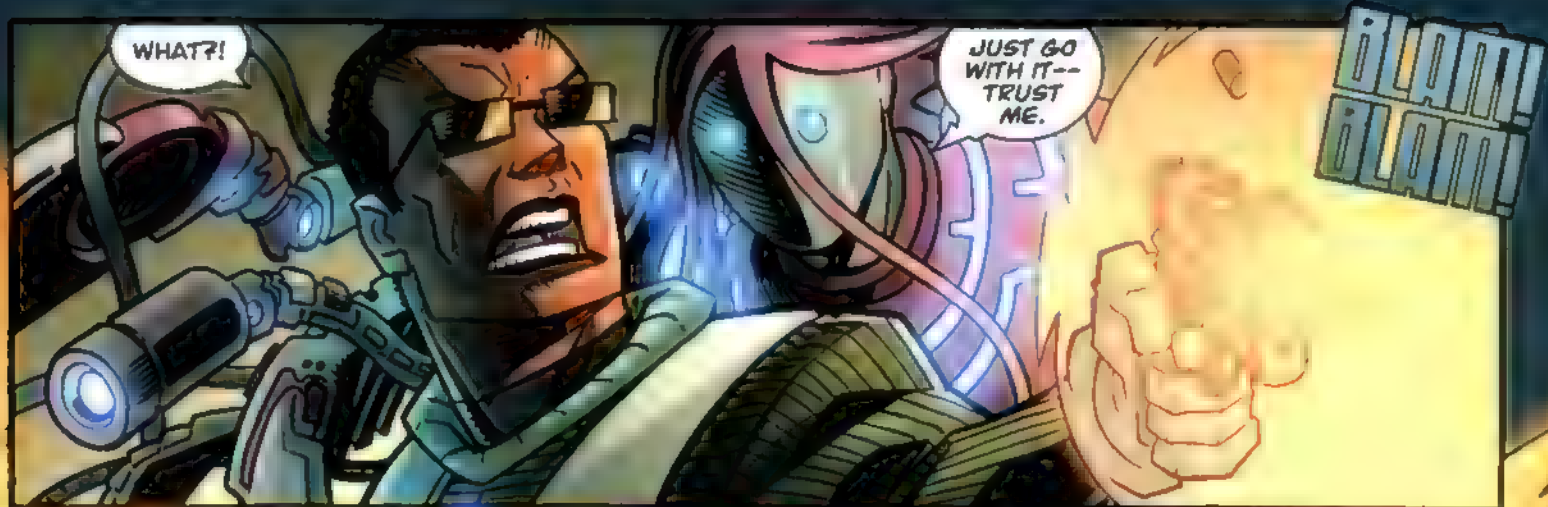


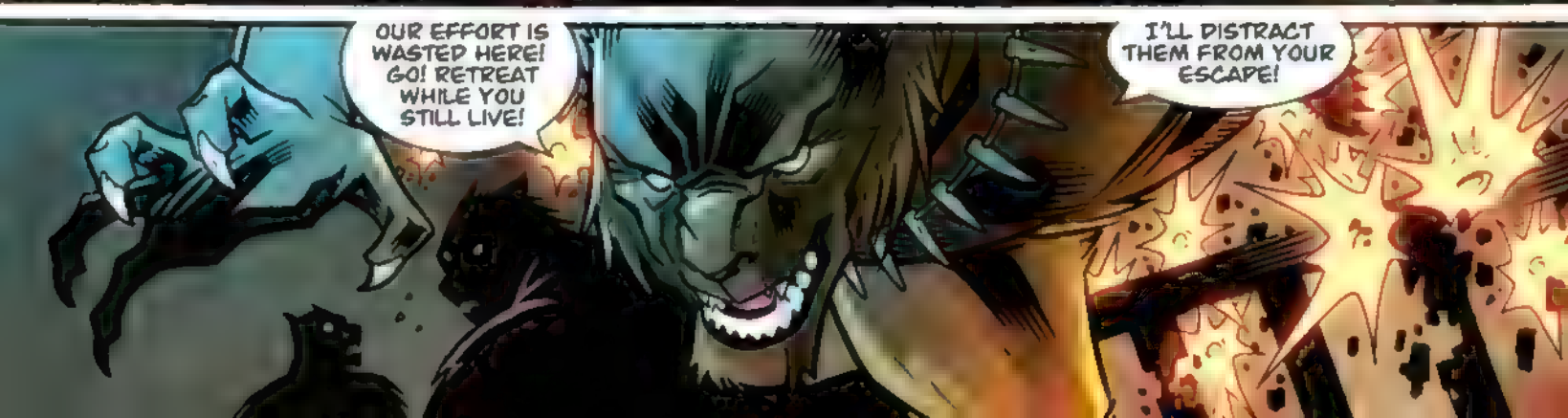
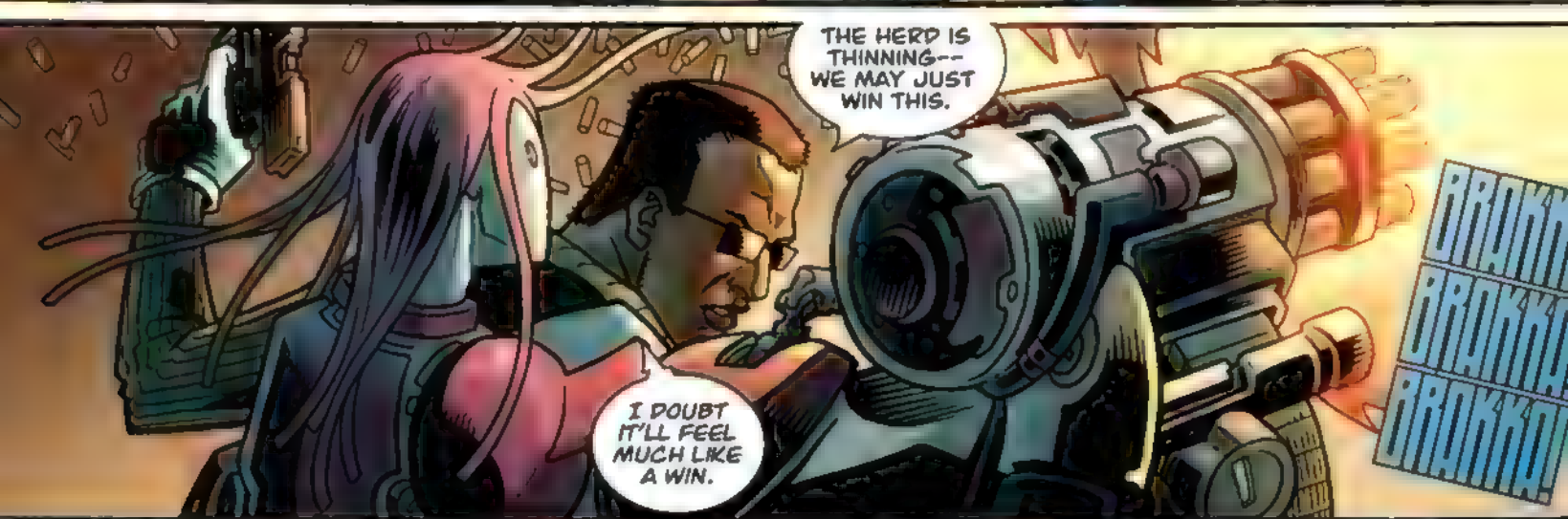
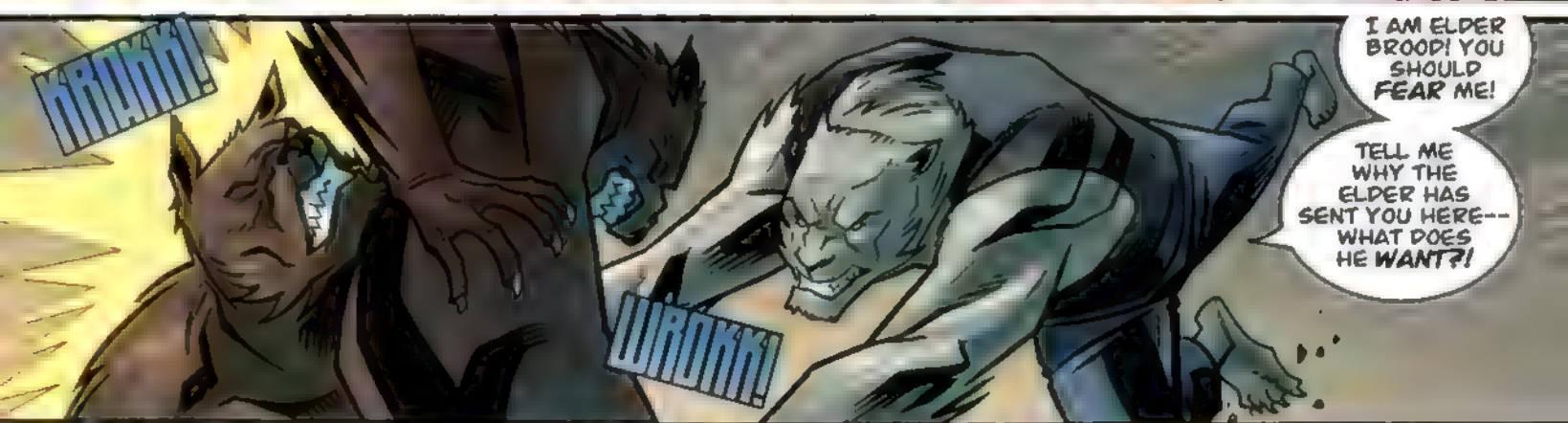














THE ELDER
WANTS YOU
DEAD! THAT
IS ALL WE
KNOW.

THAT IS
ALL WE
NEED TO
KNOW.



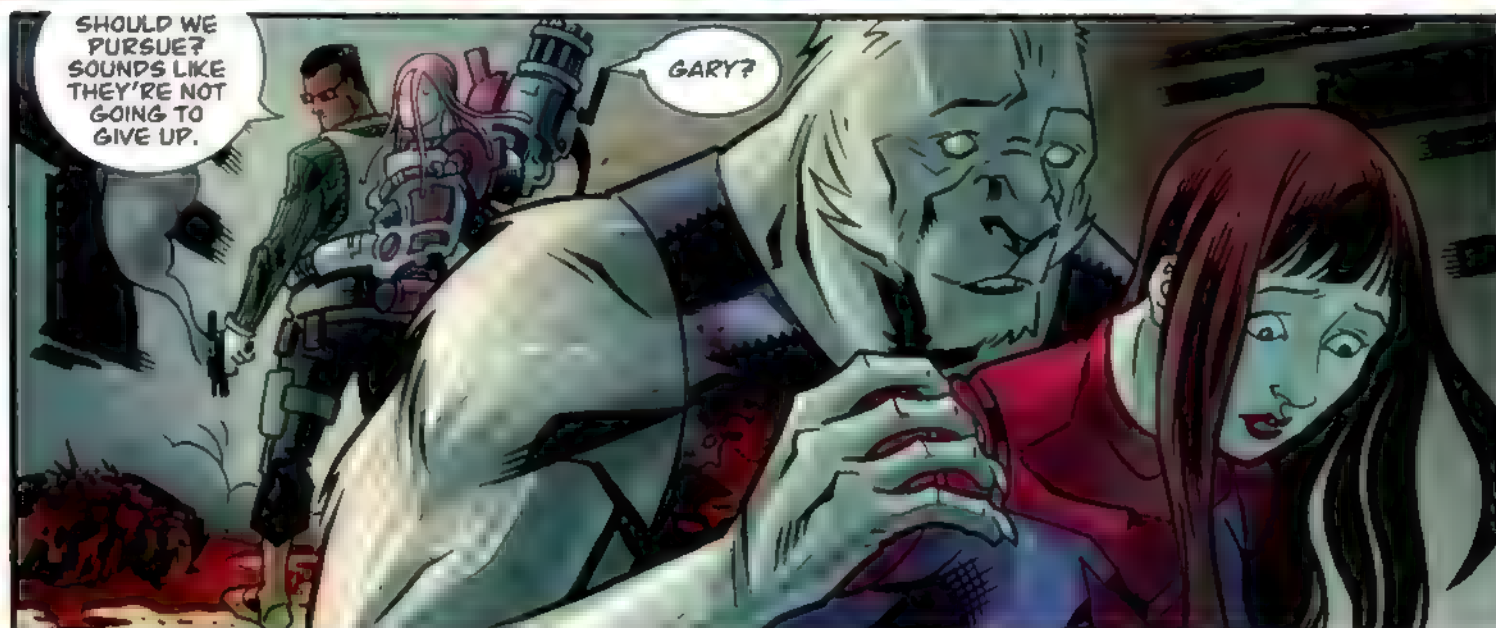
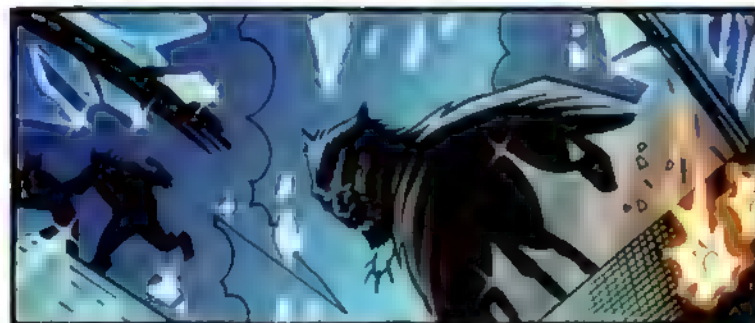
IF HE
WANTS YOU
DEAD--YOU
WILL BE
DEAD.

NOT
TODAY...
BUT
SOON.

WRAHHH!



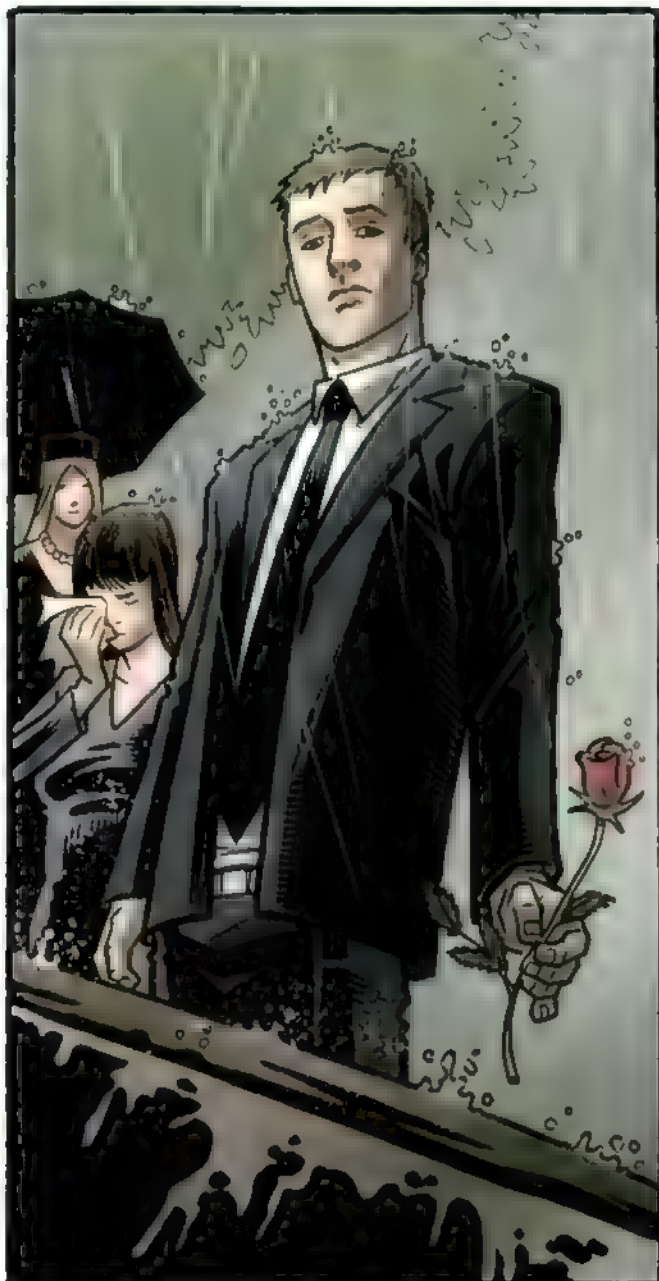
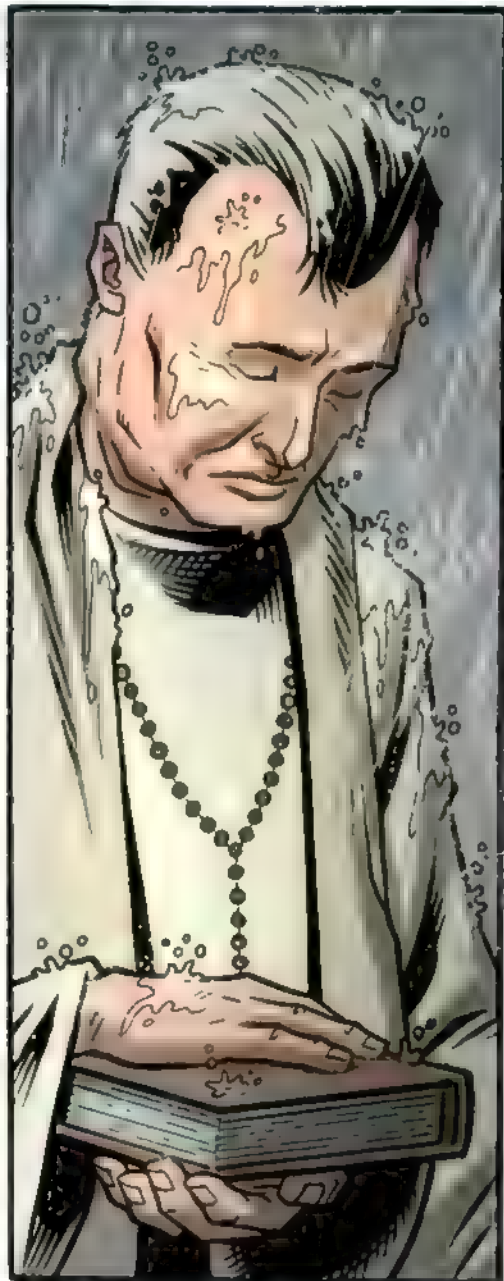
THIS IS
ONLY THE
BEGINNING.



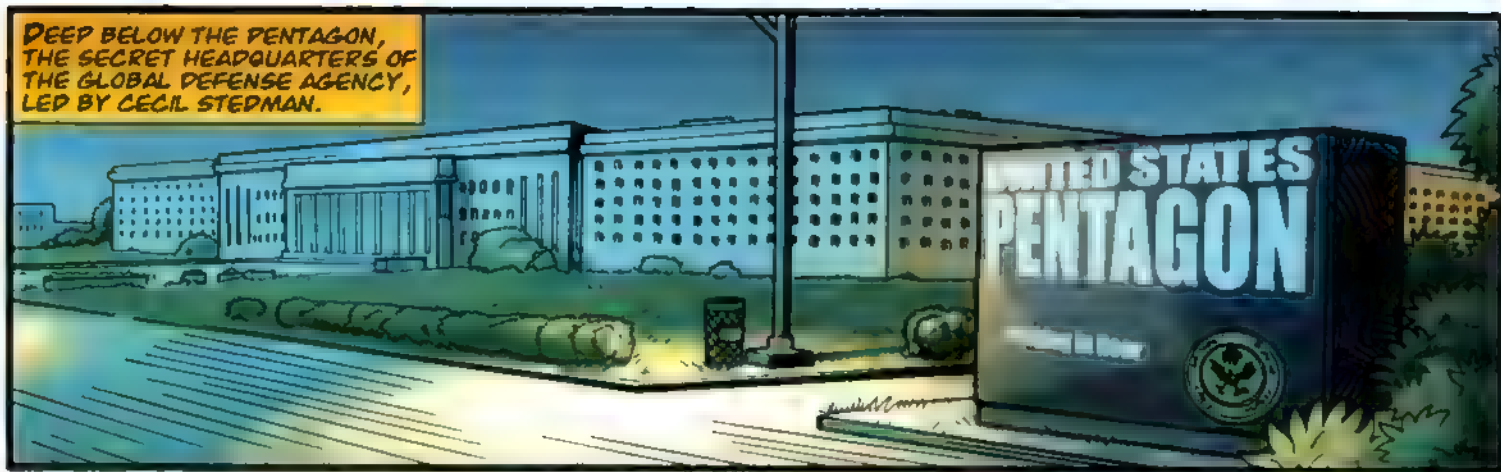
SHOULD WE
PURSUE?
SOUNDS LIKE
THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO
GIVE UP.

GARY?





DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,
THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF
THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY,
LED BY CECIL STEPMAN.



I JUST
CAN'T DO
IT, NOT
ANYMORE.

IT'S TOO
MUCH... IT'S
JUST TOO
MUCH FOR
ME TO
HANDLE.

WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY,
GARY?

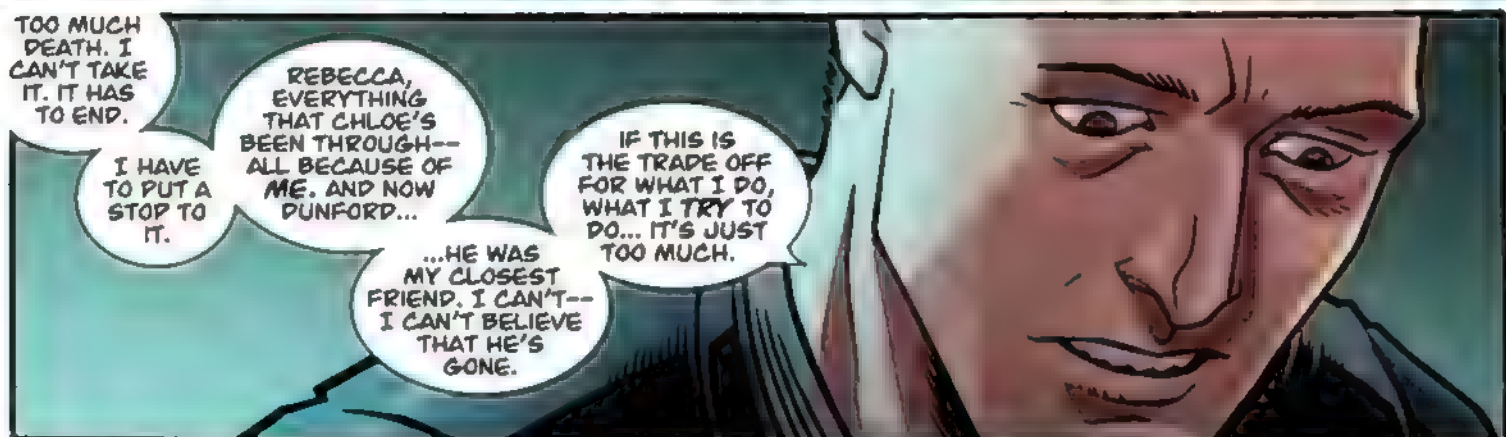
TOO MUCH
DEATH. I
CAN'T TAKE
IT. IT HAS
TO END.

I HAVE
TO PUT A
STOP TO
IT.

REBECCA,
EVERYTHING
THAT CHLOE'S
BEEN THROUGH--
ALL BECAUSE OF
ME. AND NOW
DUNFORD...

...HE WAS
MY CLOSEST
FRIEND. I CAN'T--
I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT HE'S
GONE.

IF THIS IS
THE TRADE OFF
FOR WHAT I DO,
WHAT I TRY TO
DO... IT'S JUST
TOO MUCH.



I'M SORRY
FOR YOUR LOSS,
BUT WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT... IF
QUITTING IS WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT, THAT'S
SIMPLY NOT
REALISTIC.

NOT
NOW.

ZECHARIAH IS
STILL OUT THERE,
THREATENING
YOU AND YOUR
DAUGHTER.

I'LL FORGIVE
HIS MEANS OF
ESCAPE, MIND
YOU, BUT THE FACT
REMAINS THAT
YOU'VE PUT
YOURSELF
IN HARM'S
WAY.

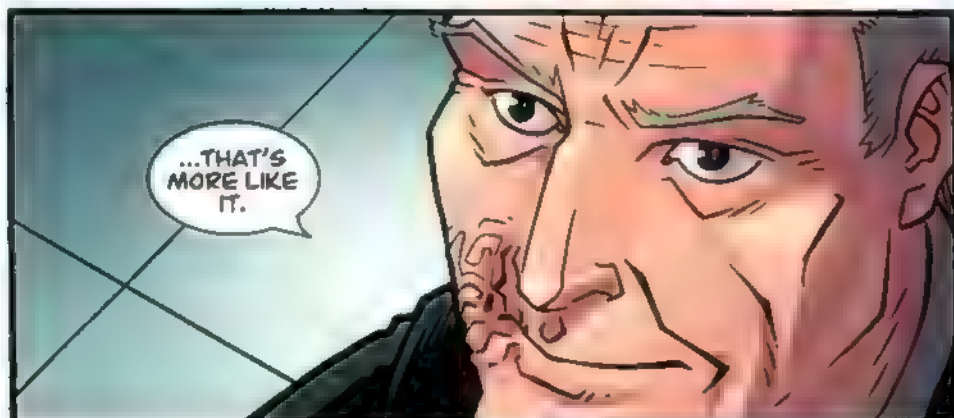


NOT TO MENTION THE
FACT THAT DUNFORD'S
KILLERS ARE STILL
OUT THERE--AND COULD
ALSO STRIKE AT ANY
MINUTE.

YOU HAVE
NO CLUE WHAT
THEY WANT--
OR IF YOU
DISAPPEARING
WILL MAKE THEM
GO AWAY.

YOU HAVE
TO SEE THIS
THROUGH.





YOU WANT TO QUIT.
YOU WANT TO RUN---
HIDE FROM YOUR
PROBLEMS... PUT
THIS WHOLE,
DIRTY ORDEAL
BEHIND YOU.

AFTER
WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN THROUGH...
I CAN
UNDERSTAND
THAT--BUT TELL
ME THIS...

WHAT
DOES
CHLOE
WANT
TO DO?

THE MAN
WHO KILLED
HER MOTHER,
STILL OUT THERE.
THE MEN WHO
KILLED DUNFORD,
STILL OUT
THERE.



IS SHE
READY TO
JUST WALK
AWAY?



...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I
KNOW
I'M
RIGHT.



DON'T
PUSH
IT.

CHLOE WILL
NEVER LET ME
WALK AWAY. NOT
NOW. I HAVE
TO SEE THIS
THROUGH...
FOR HER.

THANKS
FOR THIS.
I WAS---

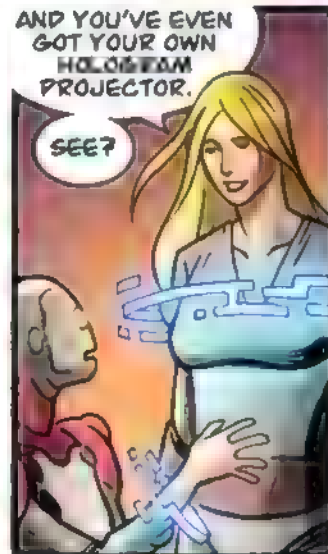
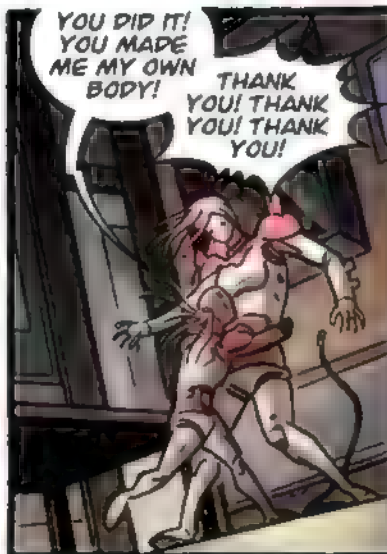
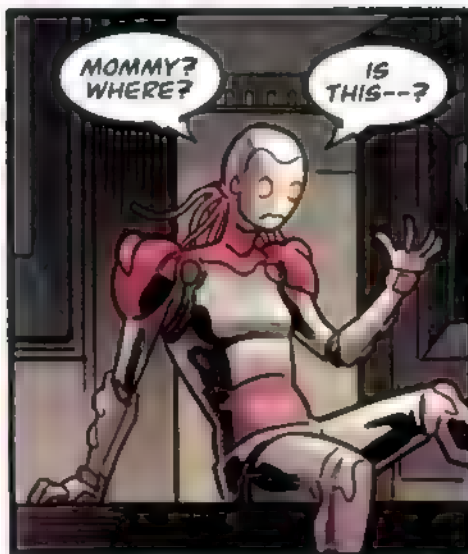
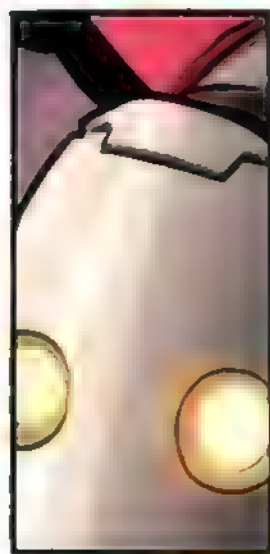
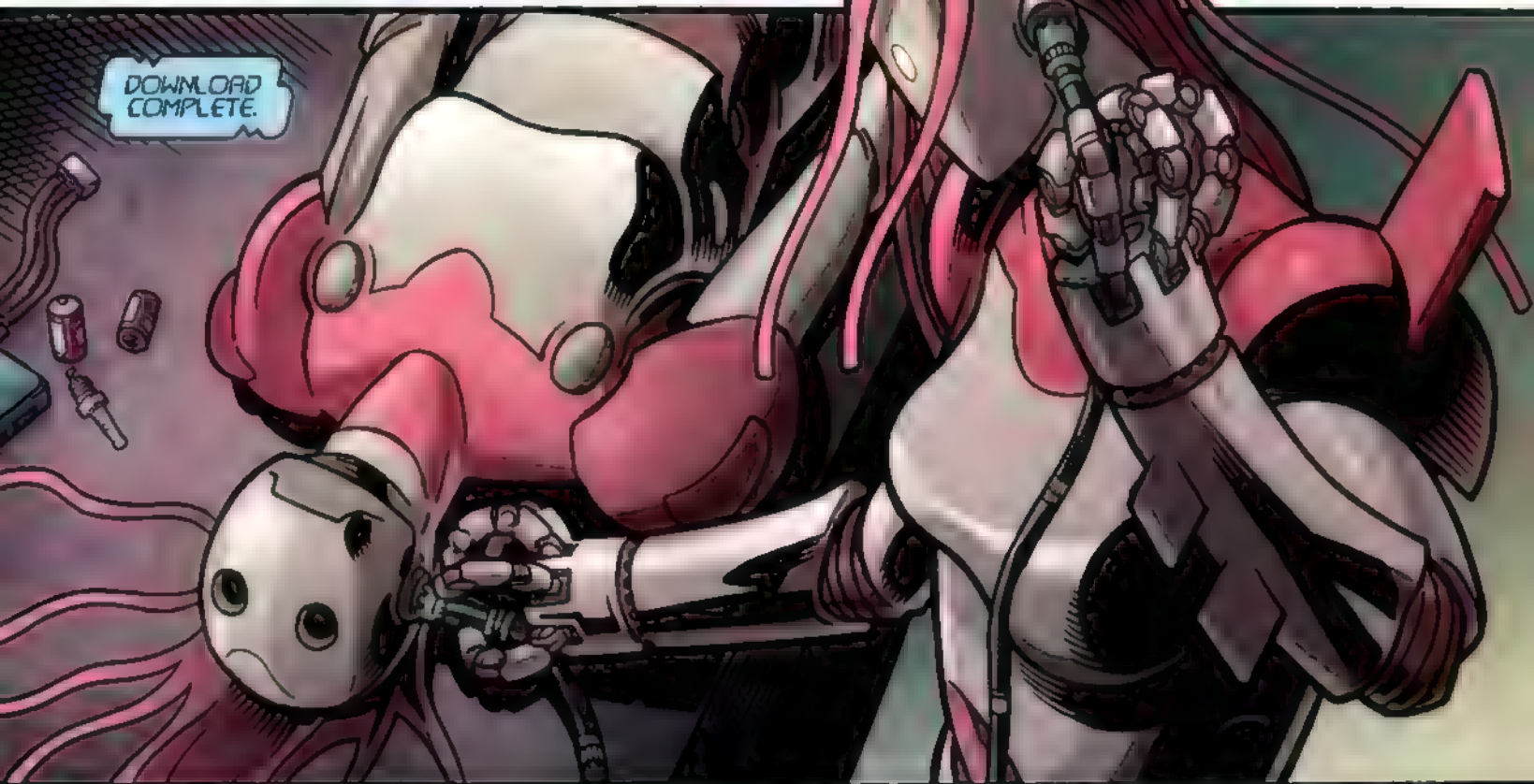


YOU JUST
LOST YOUR
FRIEND. YOU'RE
EMOTIONAL. IT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE.

I'LL
KEEP THIS
BETWEEN
US. DON'T
WORRY.



THANK
YOU.



NOT AT ALL, ELISE. I WAS BEING SELFISH. YOU WERE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE MUCH HAPPIER NOW. WE BOTH WILL BE.



DAMIEN
DARKBLOOD,
DEMON
DETECTIVE.
THANKS FOR
COMING.

YOU KNOW
I HATE BEING
CALLED THAT. IS
THAT ANY WAY TO
REPAY ME FOR
MEETING YOU AT
THIS UNGODLY
HOUR?



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



I NEED
YOUR HELP.
I'VE GOT A...
SITUATION HERE.
DON'T REALLY
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

IT'S MORE
OR LESS...
BEYOND MY
ABILITIES. I
THOUGHT YOU
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO HELP.

I ASSUME YOU SAW
THE GORGG INCIDENT
ON THE NEWS.
WOLF-MAN FIGHTING
THAT THING? IT
WAS ALL OVER
TV.

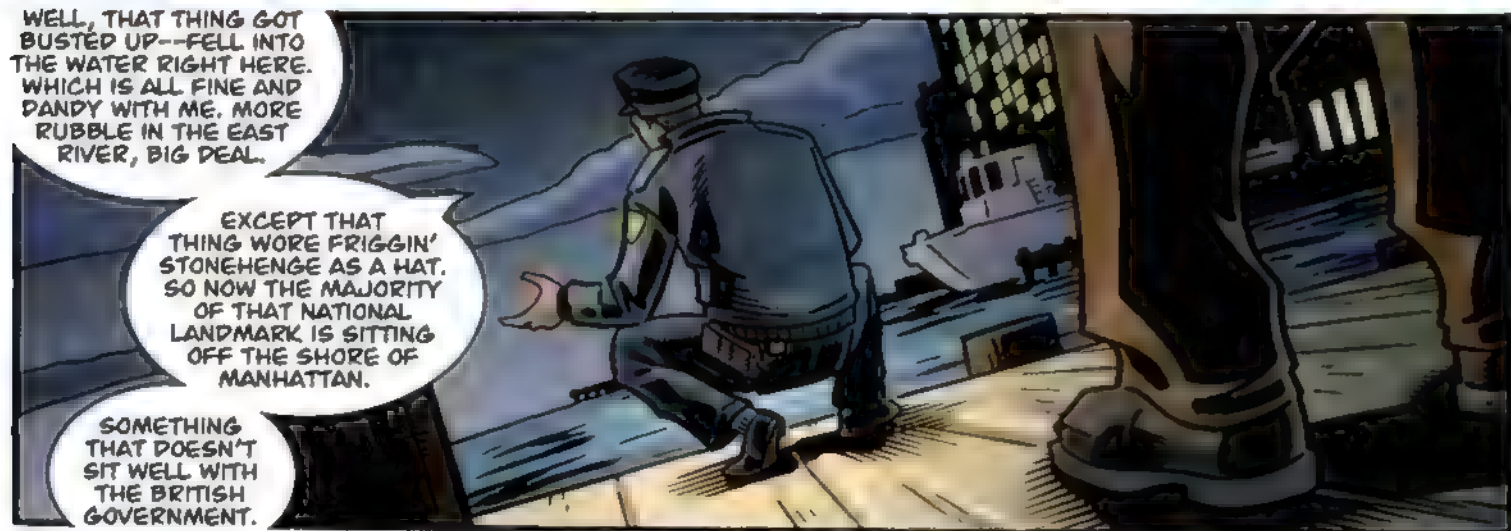
I DID.



WELL, THAT THING GOT
BUSTED UP--FELL INTO
THE WATER RIGHT HERE.
WHICH IS ALL FINE AND
DANDY WITH ME. MORE
RUBBLE IN THE EAST
RIVER, BIG DEAL.

EXCEPT THAT
THING WORE FRIGGIN'
STONEHENGE AS A HAT.
SO NOW THE MAJORITY
OF THAT NATIONAL
LANDMARK IS SITTING
OFF THE SHORE OF
MANHATTAN.

SOMETHING
THAT DOESN'T
SIT WELL WITH
THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT.



SO THEY'RE PRETTY
MUCH DEMANDING WE
PULL UP THESE
MASSIVE STONES AND
SHIP THEM BACK TO
THEM, SO THEY CAN
TRY AND RESTORE
THEIR TOURIST
ATTRACTION.

WHICH,
AGAIN--
I'M FINE
WITH.

THING IS,
I GOT THREE
DIVERS MISSING.
ANYONE GOES
DOWN THERE--
DOESN'T COME
BACK.

SO NOW
I GOT PEOPLE
REFUSING TO
GO IN, NOT
THAT I CAN
BLAME 'EM.



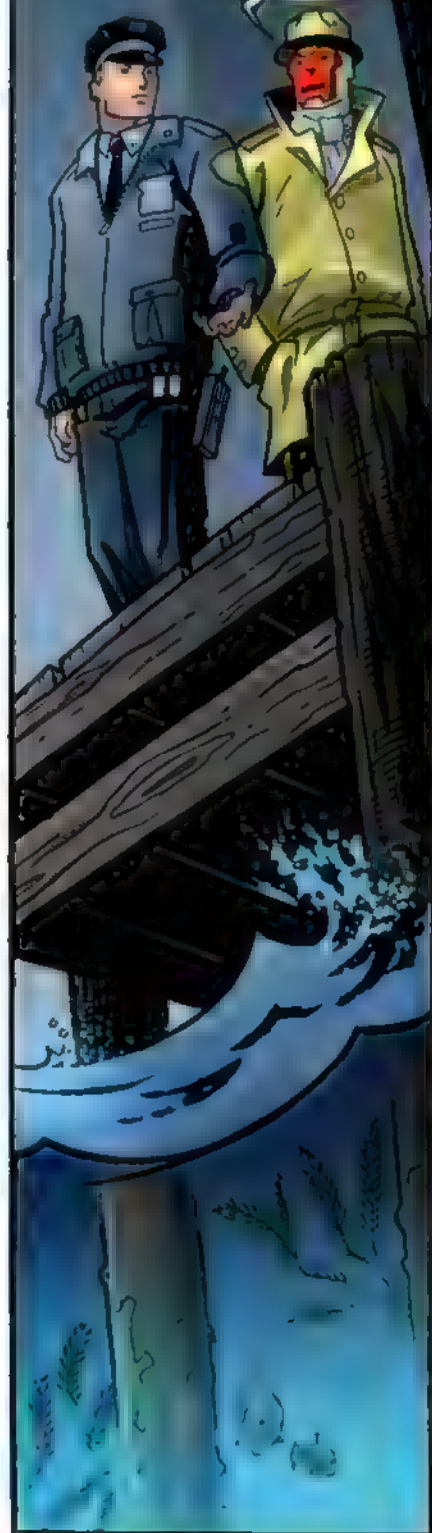
HURM.

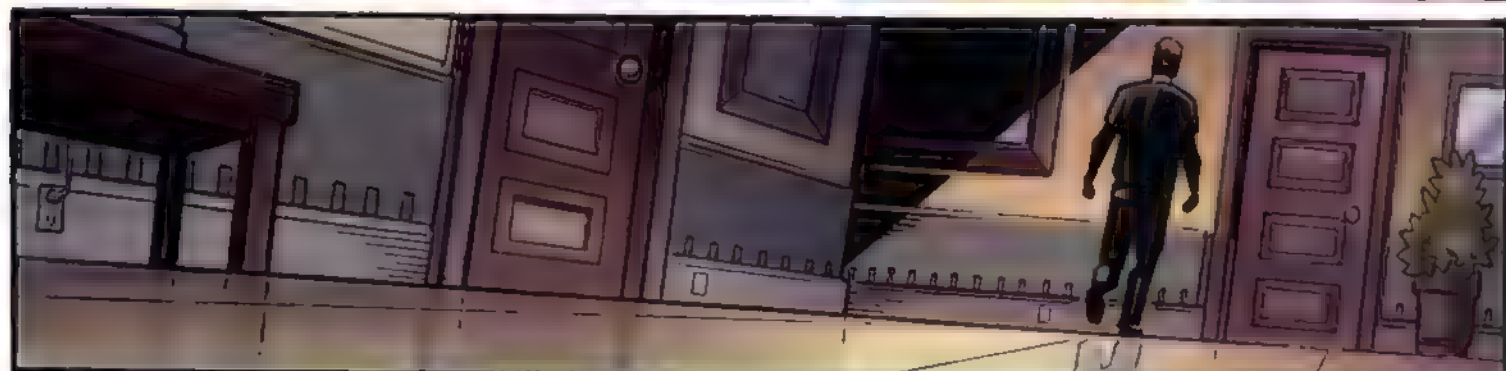
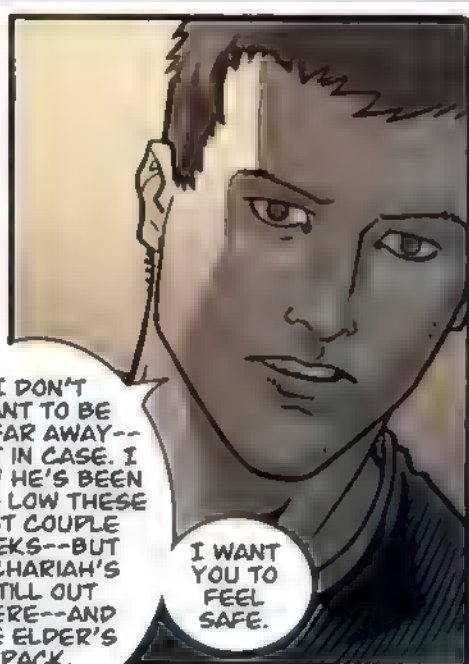
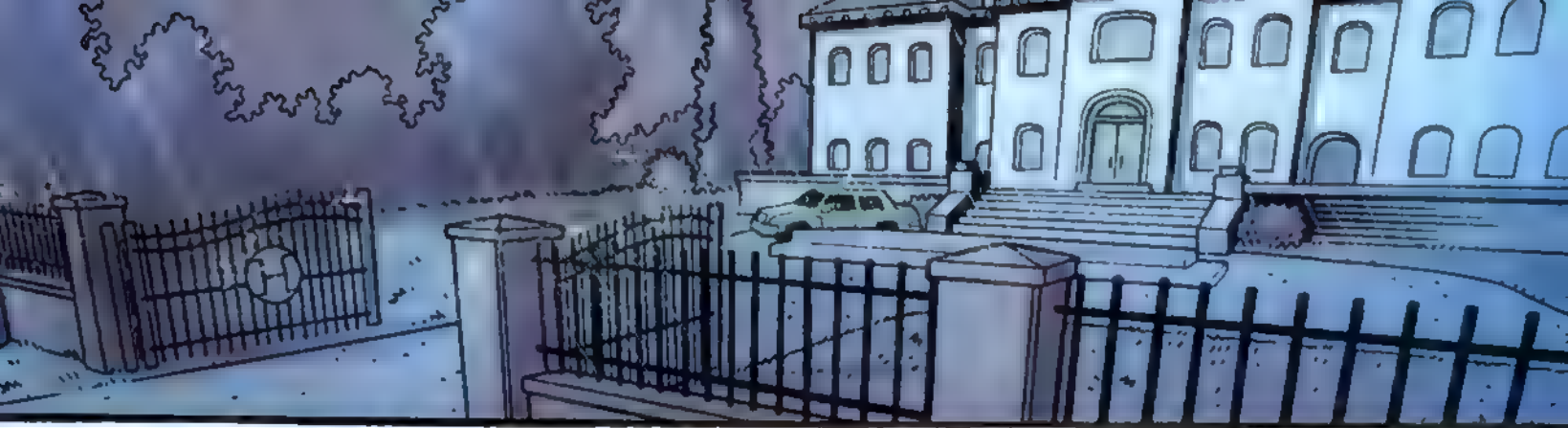
YEAH, SO... YOU GOT ANY KIND OF MAGIC SPELLS OR SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO ENSURE MY PEOPLE WON'T... WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?

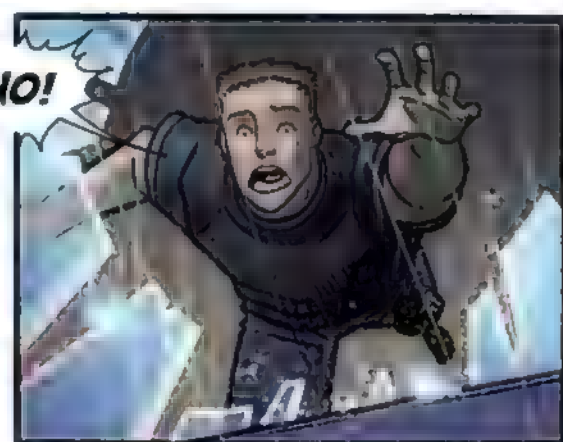
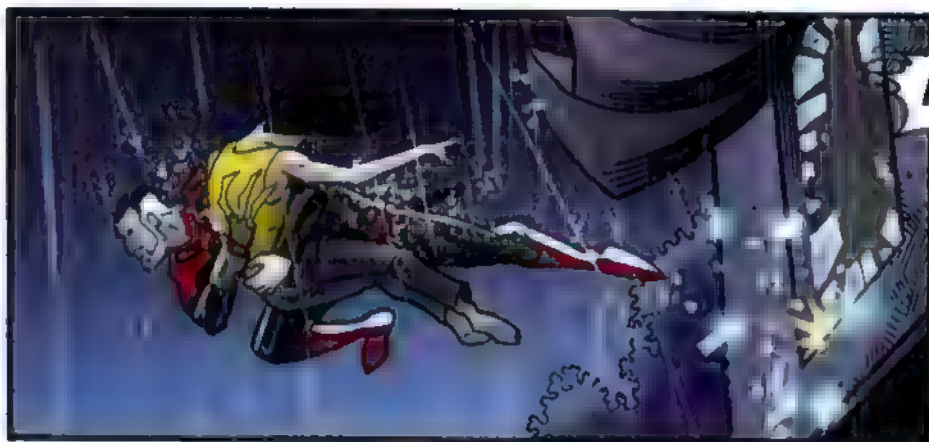
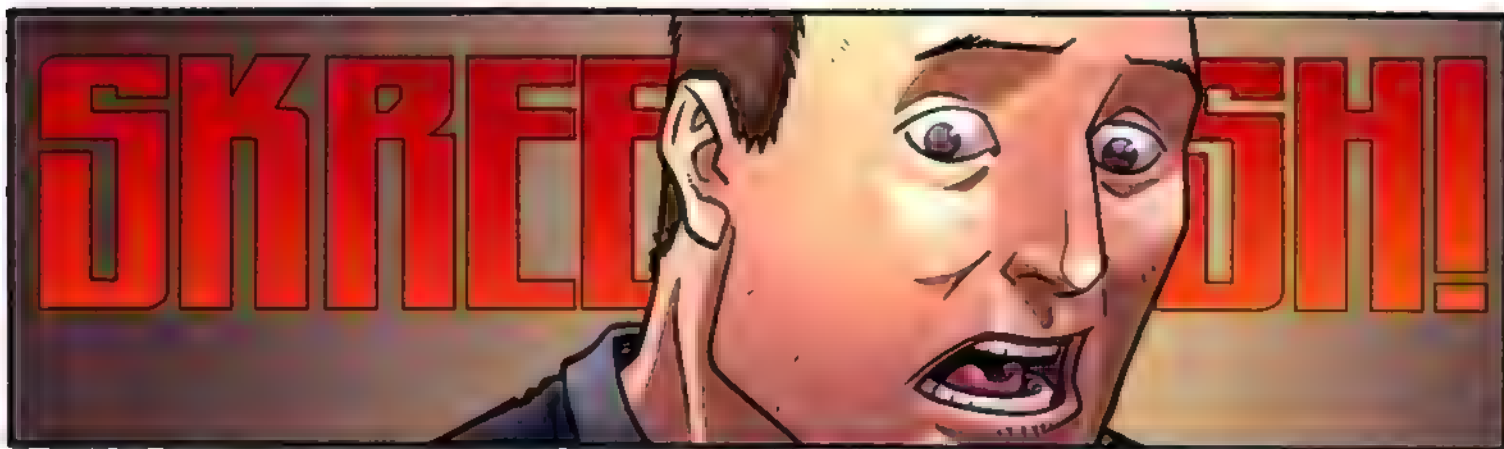
YOU WATCH TOO MUCH TV. I RESIST HEAT... OTHER THAN THAT, I'M ONLY SLIGHTLY STRONGER THAN THE AVERAGE HUMAN.

I AM AN EXCELLENT DETECTIVE. I'LL USE MY SKILLS TO DISCOVER EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOUR MEN AND IF I CAN--I'LL STOP IT.

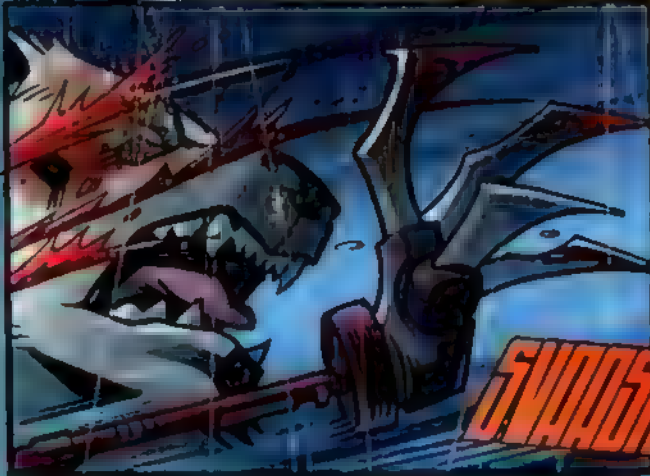
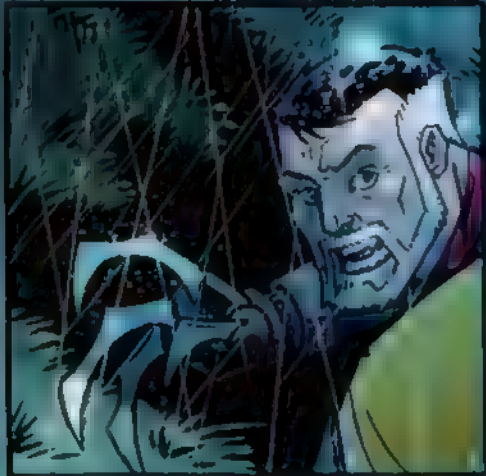
I'M SURE THIS WILL BE A SIMPLE TASK.







QUIT
SQUIRMING!
YOU'RE ONLY
MAKING THIS
HARDER FOR
YOURSELF.



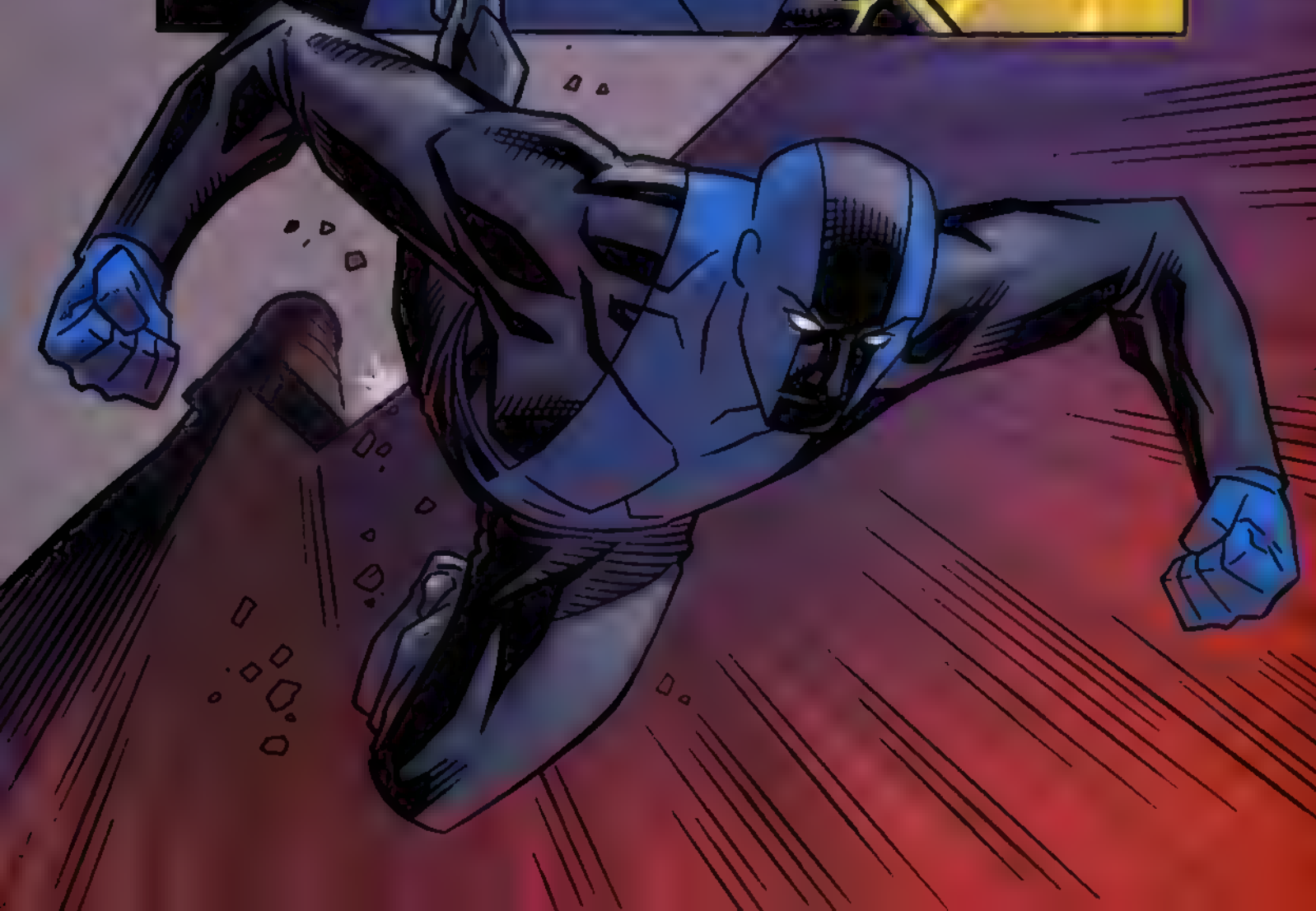


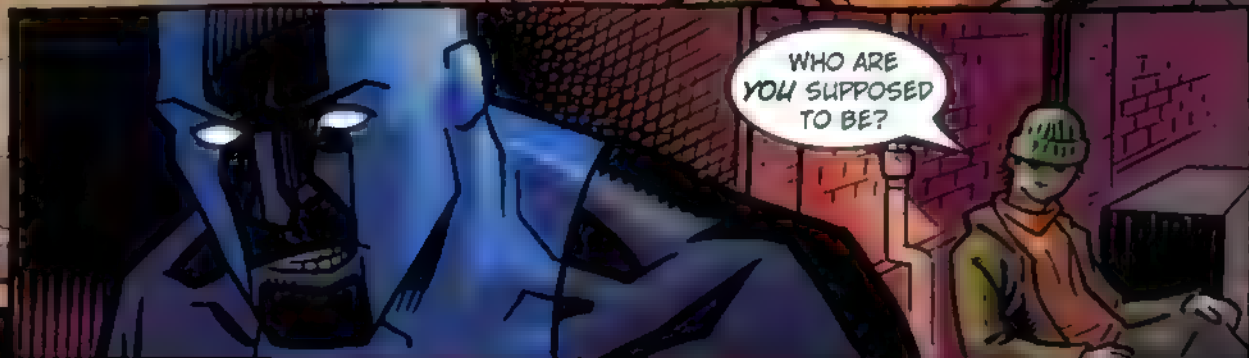
YOU
ARE TO BE
TESTED.

CODE BLUE

BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 2 OF 4

STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD







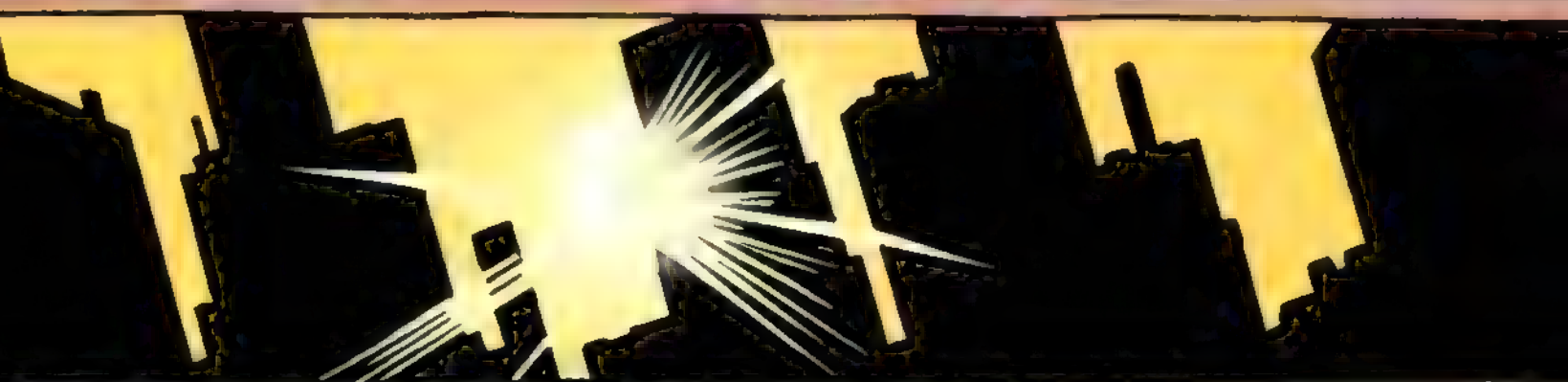
UH,
SURE...



LISTEN, I NEED
A PLACE TO STAY
FOR A COUPLE DAYS,
SOMEWHERE OUT
OF THE WAY...



WELL,
YOU LUCKED OUT.
NOBODY COMES
BACK HERE. GRAB A
BOX AND FIND A SPOT
WITH ALL THE OTHER
CRAZY PEOPLE.



HEY
BROADWAY,
YOU
AWAKE?

I DIDN'T
SLEEP.

RIGHT. UH,
WILLIE GOT STUFF
TO MAKE JOE THIS
MORNING. I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT WANT
SOME?



THANKS.



THAT'S
HOT!





YEAH IT'S HOT. ARE YOU RETARDED? YOU NEVER HAD COFFEE BEFORE?

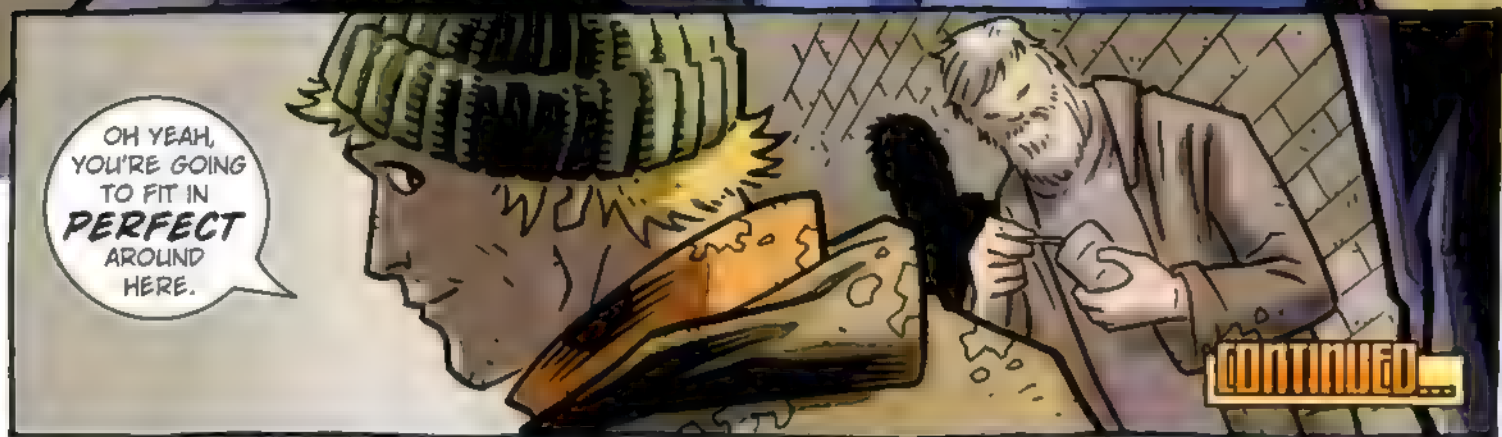
NO...



ALRIGHT CADE, WHERE YOU FROM, FOR REAL?

ACTUALLY, I AM PRETTY SURE I AM FROM HERE. WELL, I MEAN THIS **LOCATION**, JUST IN BETWEEN WHAT ANYONE CAN NOTICE. MY HOME IS CALLED **COREQ**, IT IS ONE OF A PAIR OF WORLDS THAT TAKE UP THE **SAME** PHYSICAL SPACE BUT EXIST ON DIFFERENT VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES. I WAS ON A MILITARY MISSION TO JUMP TO THE OTHER BY CHANGING THE VIBRATIONAL CYCLE OF MY ATOMS. SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG... I ENDED UP HERE.

THIS PLACE MUST EXIST ON A FREQUENCY THAT OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE NEVER DISCOVERED. DON'T WORRY THOUGH, I WON'T BE HERE LONG. SOMETIME **SOON** A FREQUENCY MODIFICATION PORTAL SHOULD OPEN NEAR ME AND I WILL RETURN HOME.



OH YEAH, YOU'RE GOING TO FIT IN **PERFECT** AROUND HERE.

CONTINUED...

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLFMAN

Image

STARCLASH

24

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LEGACY
PART FOUR OF FIVE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



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writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
letterer

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
colorists

SINA GRACE
editor

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD



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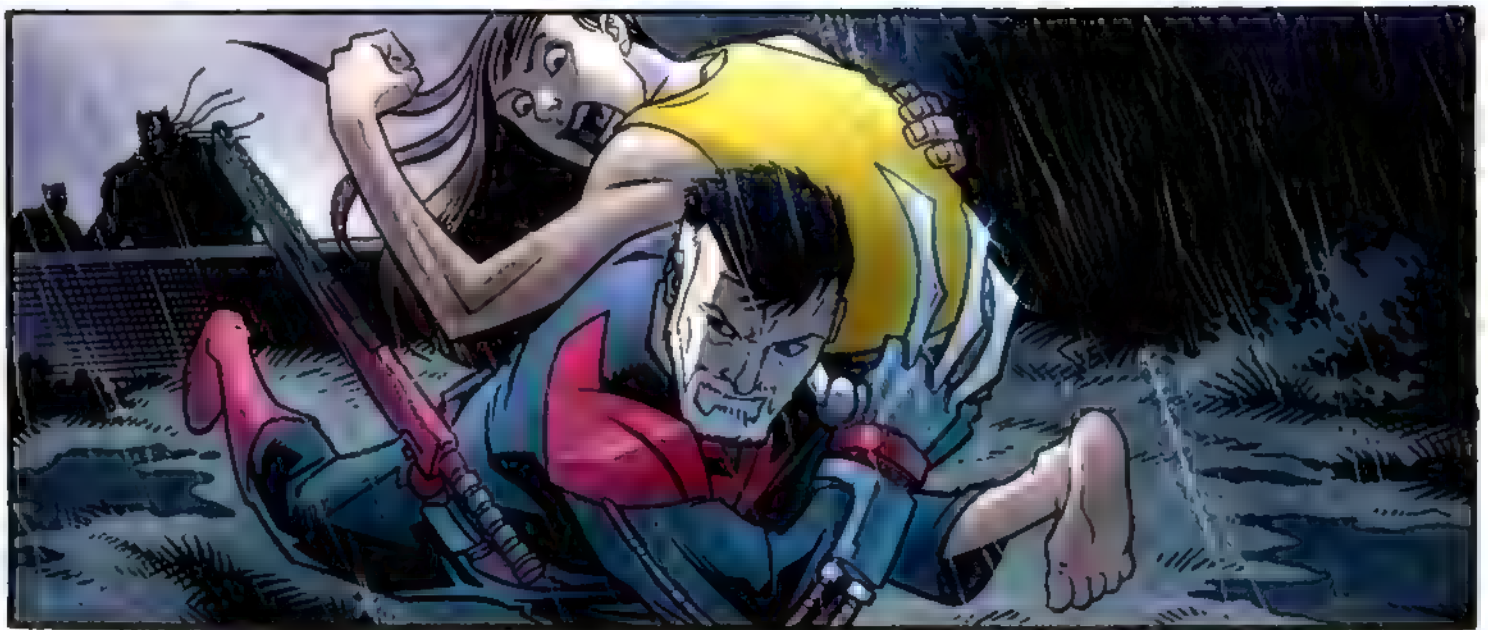


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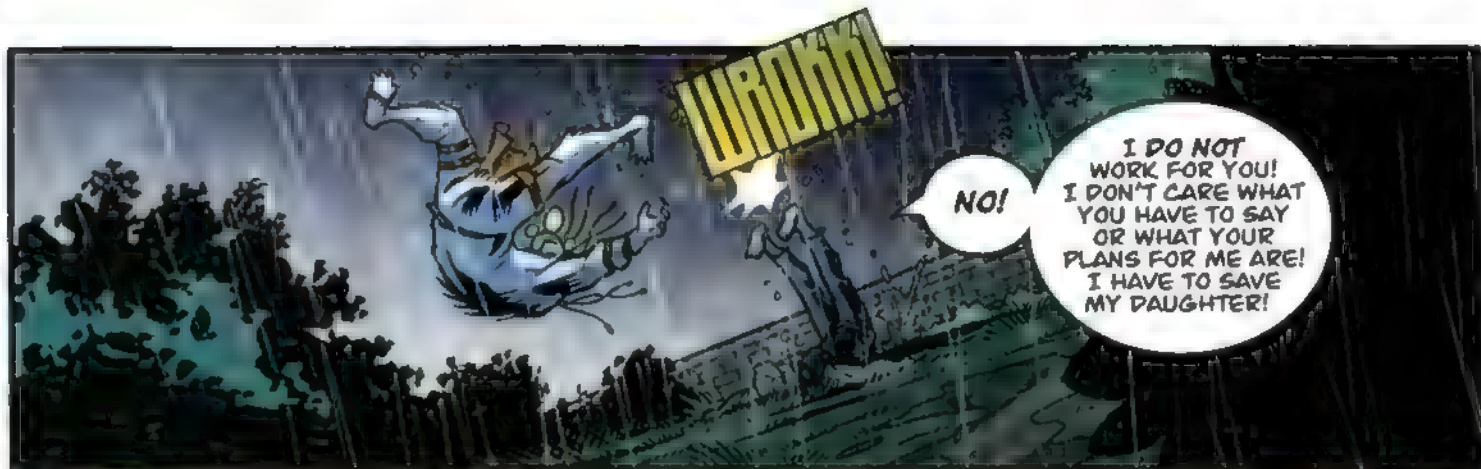
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NO!

I DO NOT
WORK FOR YOU!
I DON'T CARE WHAT
YOU HAVE TO SAY
OR WHAT YOUR
PLANS FOR ME ARE!
I HAVE TO SAVE
MY DAUGHTER!



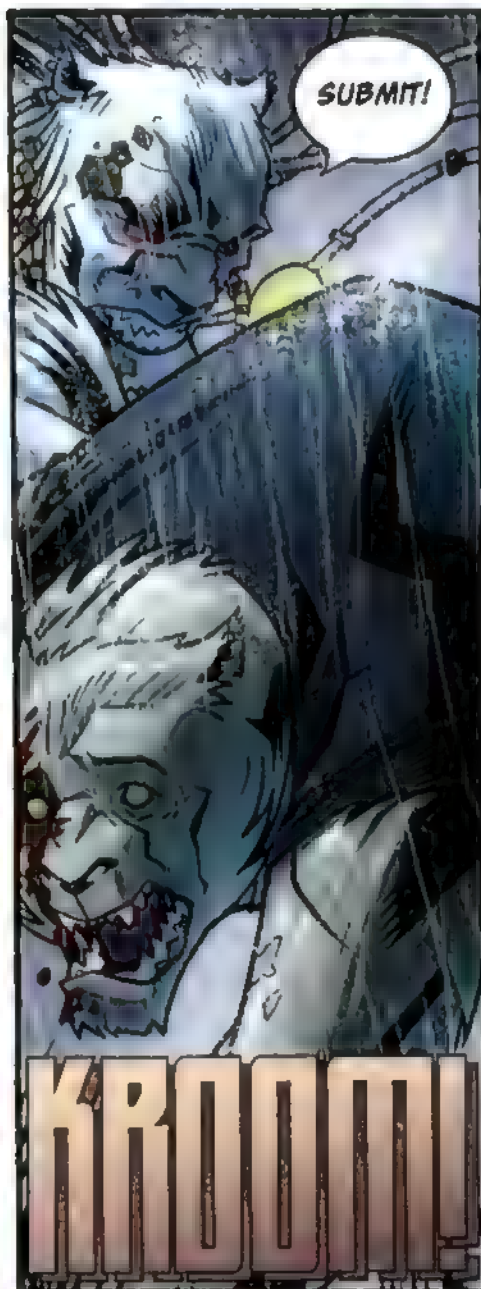
THERE IS
NOTHING
YOU CAN
DO TO STOP
ME!

YOU HAVE GROWN
STRONGER--GOOD.
THIS WILL SERVE
YOU WELL IN
THE COMING
BATTLE.

BUT DO NOT
UNDERESTIMATE ME.
YOU WILL FIGHT ME, YOU
MUST--TO PROVE
YOUR WORTH, OR
MINE. IT IS YOUR
DESTINY.



NO!
I WON'T,
I--



SUBMIT!

KROOOM!



NO!

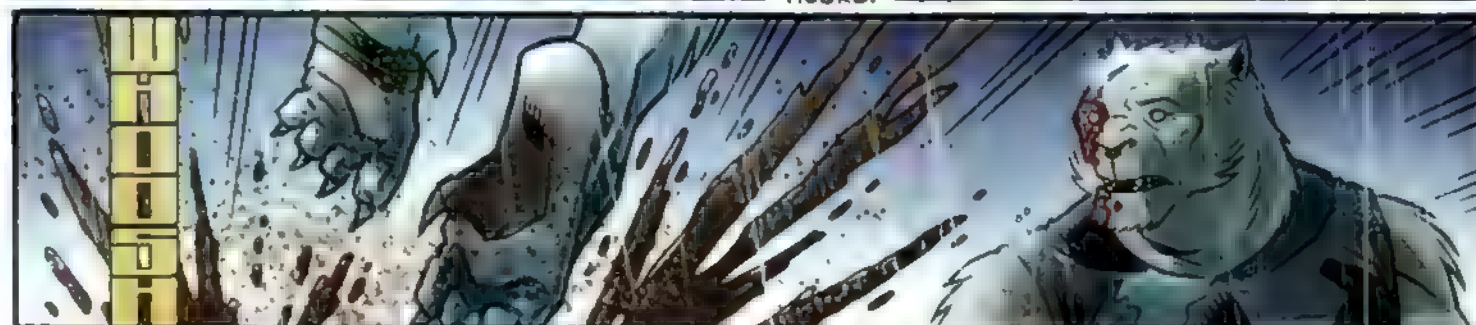
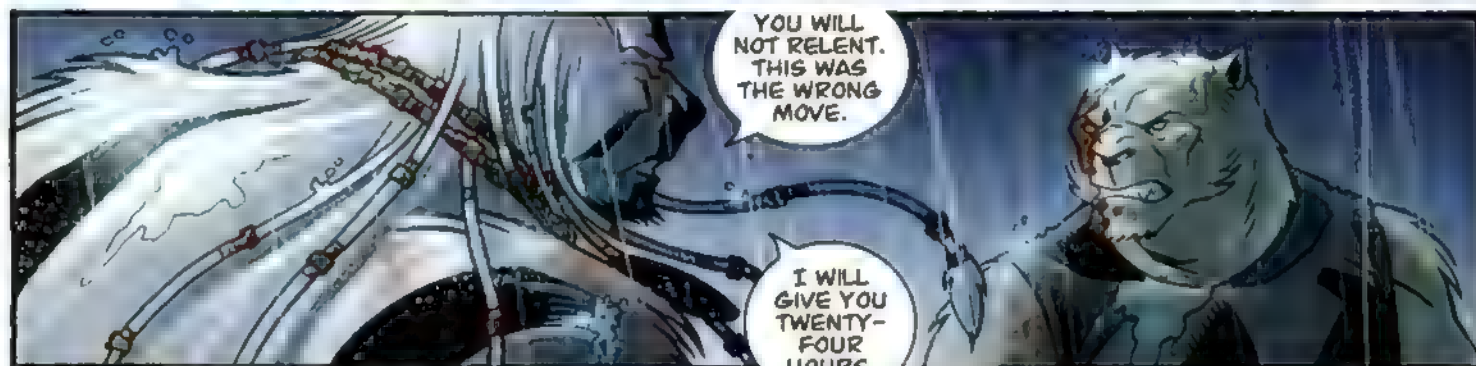
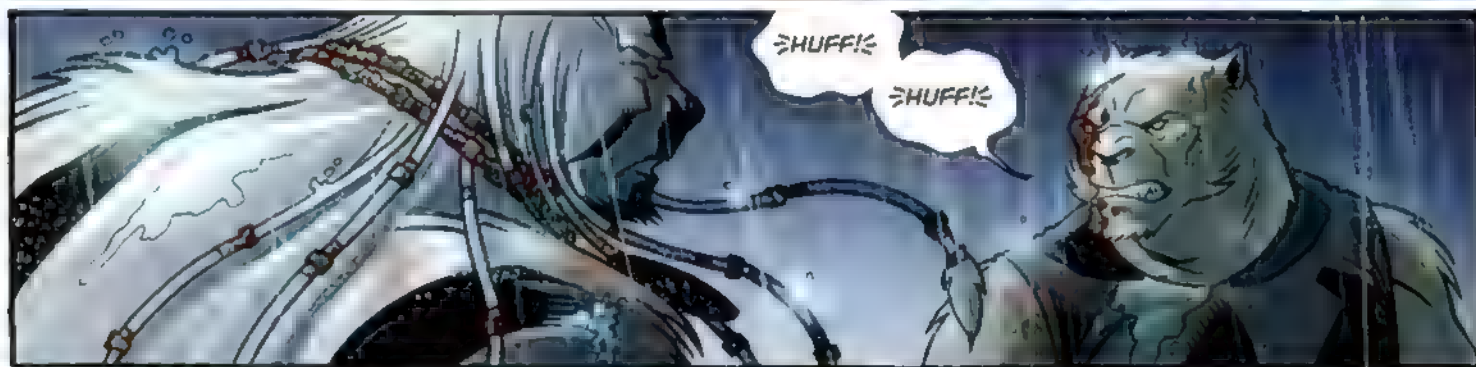
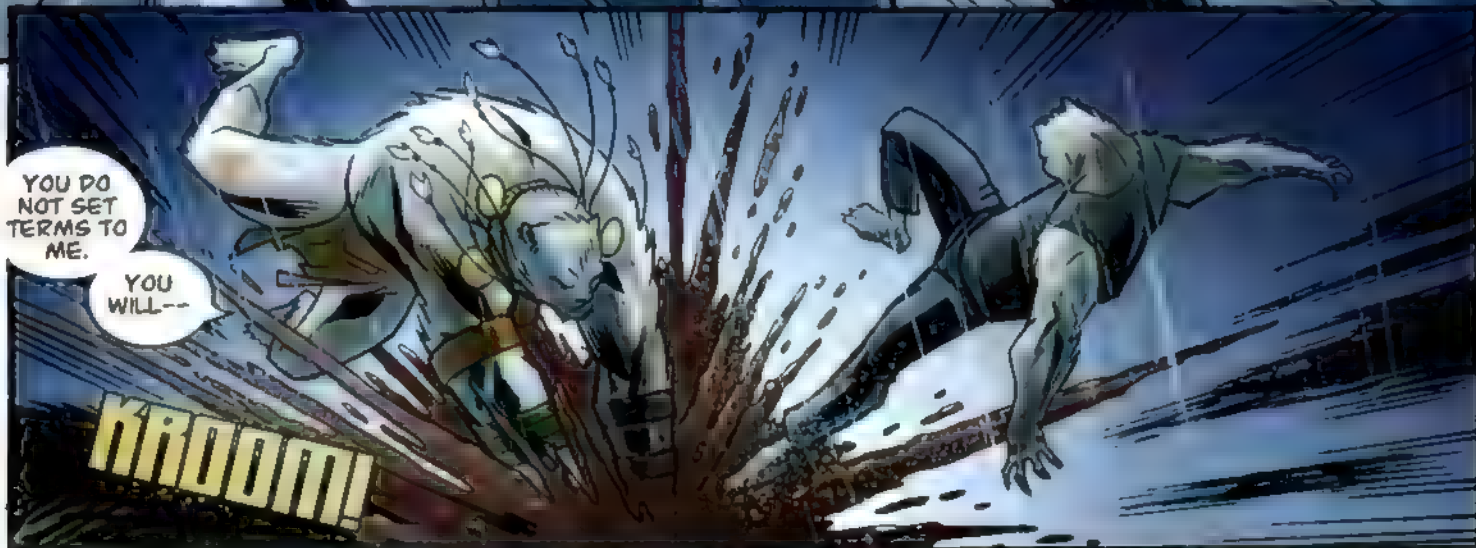
I NEVER
ASKED FOR
THIS! NOT ANY
OF IT! I DON'T
WANT IT!
ZECHARIAH HAS
MY DAUGHTER!
I HAVE TO
SAVE HER!

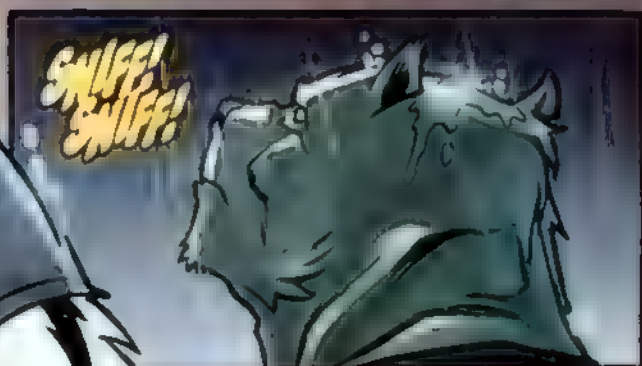
I REFUSE
TO BE YOUR
PAWN!



YOU WERE
NOT CHOSEN
BECAUSE
YOU ARE
WILLING.

YOU WERE
CHOSEN
BECAUSE
YOU ARE
WORTHY.







NO.

THE RAIN IS
DROWNING
OUT ANY
SMELLS.

ANY WAY
YOU COULD
TRACK
HIM?

NO. THE TRACKING
DEVICE I IMPLANTED
IN HIS HAND IS STILL
INACTIVE. IT WOULD
TAKE TIME FOR ME
TO FIGURE OUT
A WAY TO
REACTIVATE IT
REMOTELY.

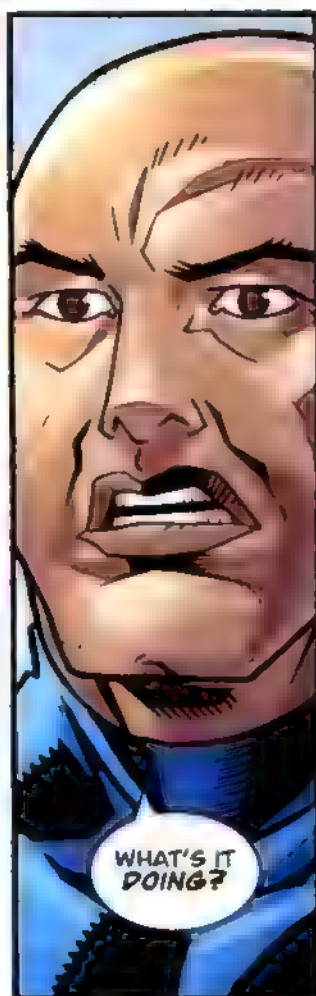
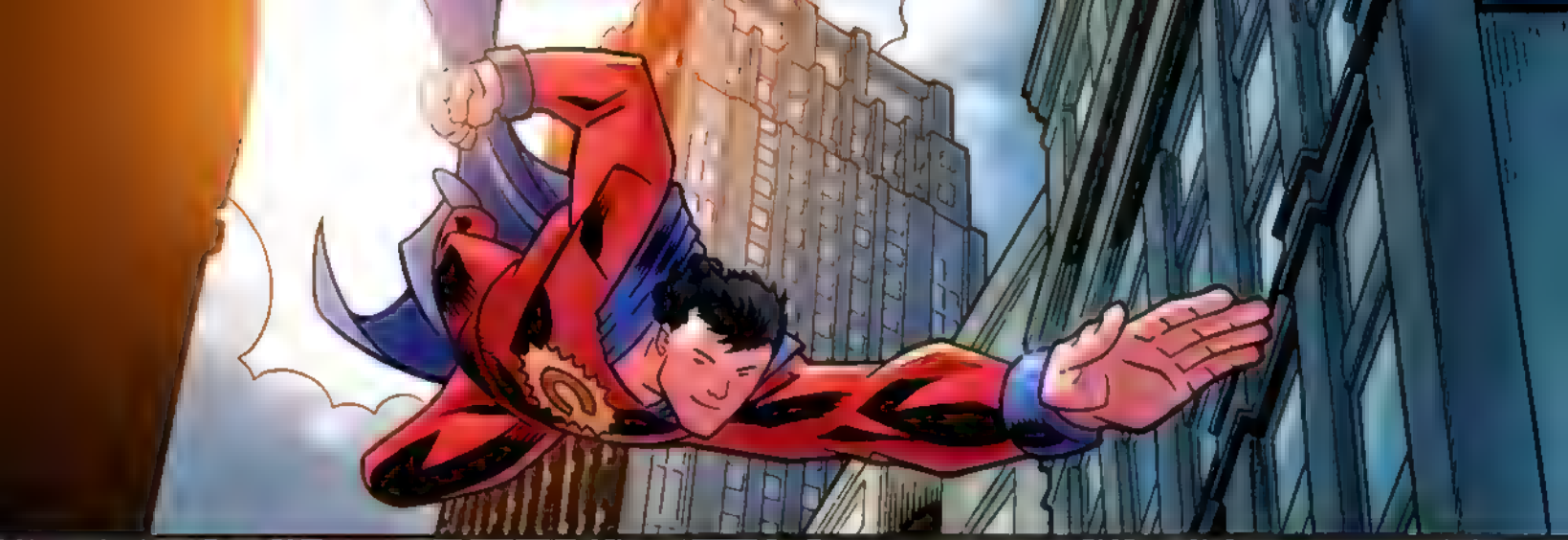
I COULD TRY
A FEW OTHER
THINGS, BUT
IT WOULD
TAKE--

WE
DON'T
HAVE
TIME.

COME.

I NEED
TO CALL IN
A FAVOR.





...SECONDS.



OKAY,
BOYS AND
GIRLS--GET
READY.

IT'S TIME
TO MAKE THE
DONUTS.



HE'S OUT THERE--HE'S GOT MY DAUGHTER AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO?

I NEED YOU TO FIND HER, CECIL!

I DIDN'T SAY THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO. OUR SURVEILLANCE TEAM IS WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF WHERE SHE COULD BE.

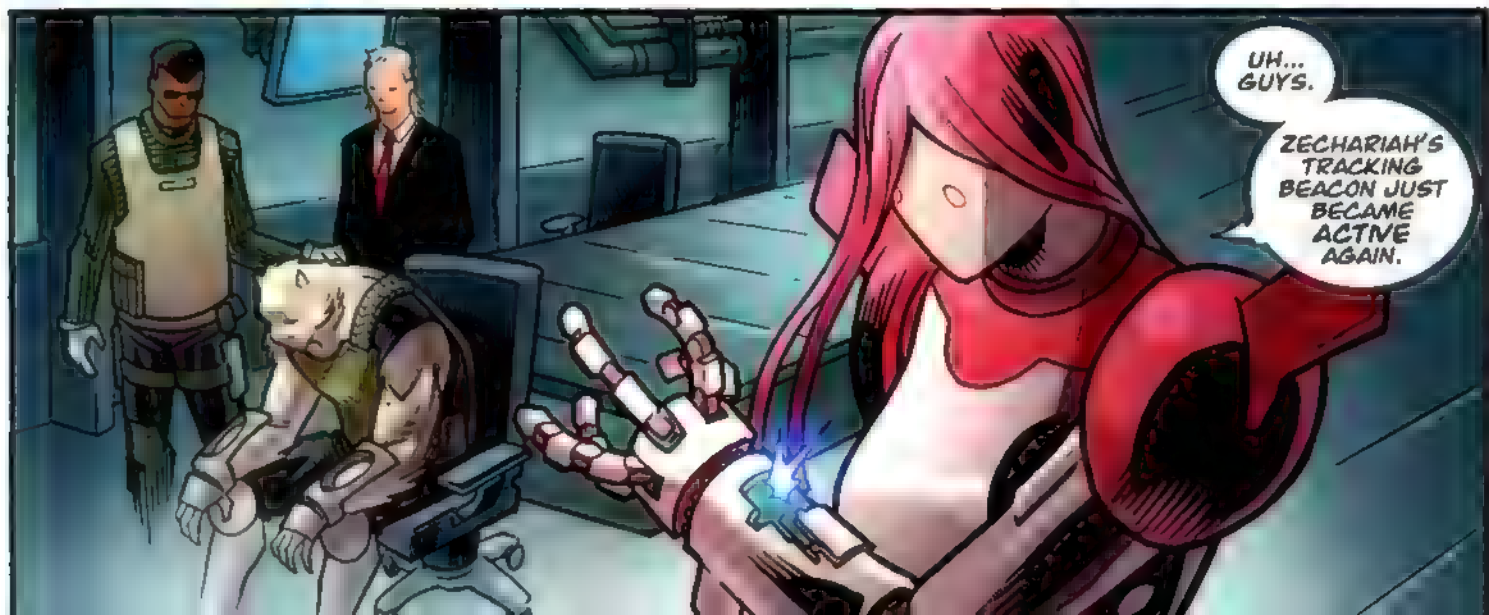
WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT ZECHARIAH... HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.



WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN, GARY. WE'LL FIND YOUR DAUGHTER.

I'M SORRY-- I DON'T MEAN TO LOSE MY TEMPER--IT'S JUST...

...I CAN'T LOSE HER, TOO.



UH... GUYS.

ZECHARIAH'S TRACKING BEACON JUST BECAME ACTIVE AGAIN.



DRINKING MY BLOOD--
GETTING MOST OF THE
POWERS OF A VAMPIRE--
BUT NONE OF THE
SIDE EFFECTS.

IT'S NICE,
ISN'T IT?

VAMPIRE
GIRL.

THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLY
CUTE.

THE THING
IS... THE
POWERS ARE ONLY
TEMPORARY.



OF COURSE
YOU ALREADY
KNOW THAT. YOU
HAVE TO BE
FEELING THE
POWER FADE
BY NOW.

HOW DOES
THAT MAKE YOU
FEEL--TO HAVE
THE POWER AND
THEN FEEL IT
SLIPPING
AWAY? IS IT
TORTURE?

WHAT WOULD
YOU DO TO KEEP
FROM LOSING
YOUR NEWFOUND
ABILITIES?

WHAT
WOULD YOU
SACRIFICE?

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO TO
ME?



I'M GOING
TO DRAIN ALL
OF THE BLOOD
FROM YOUR
BODY.

SHORTLY
BEFORE YOUR
LIFE SLIPS
AWAY--I'M
GOING TO TURN
YOU INTO A
VAMPIRE.

AND I'M
GOING TO MAKE
DADDY WATCH.
HE SHOULD BE
HERE VERY
SOON.



JUST
DO IT.



NICE
TRY.



YOU KILLED MY MOTHER,
BUT THAT DOESN'T FREE
MY FATHER FROM BLAME.
HE STILL BROUGHT
YOU INTO OUR
LIFE.

TURN ME
NOW, BEFORE
HE GETS
HERE--I'LL
HELP YOU
TAKE HIM
DOWN.



YOU
REALLY
EXPECTED
ME TO
FALL FOR
THAT?

IT WAS
WORTH A
SHOT.



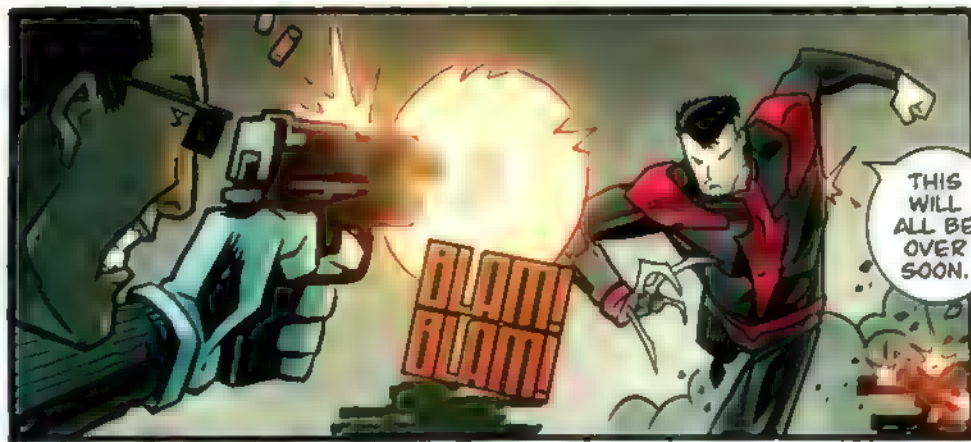
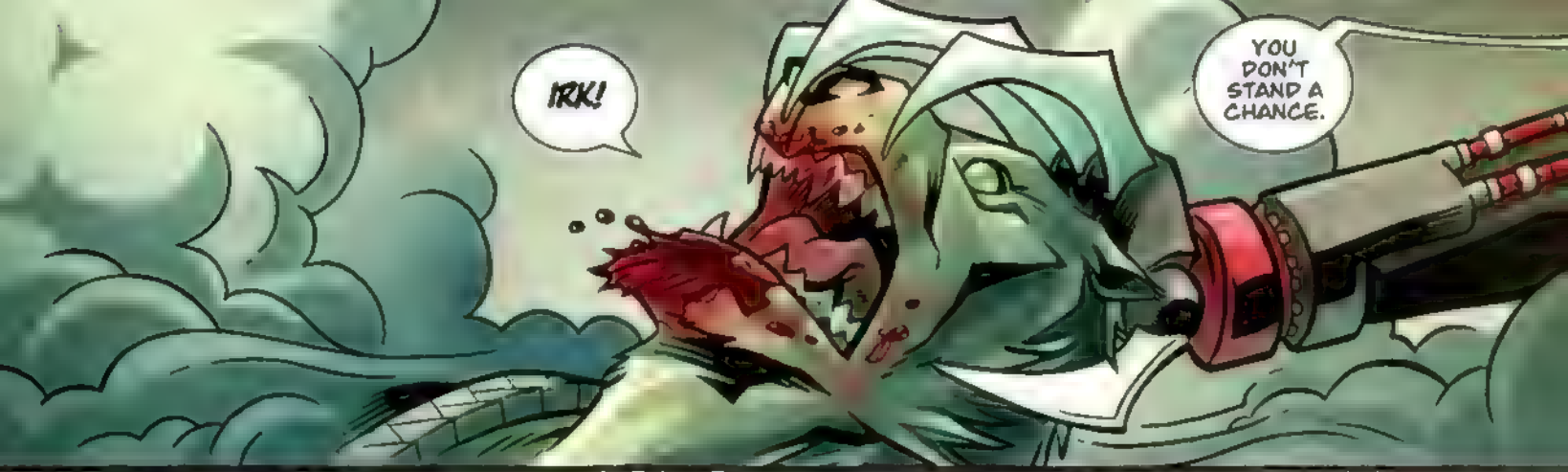
STUPID
GIRL.

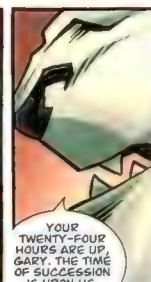
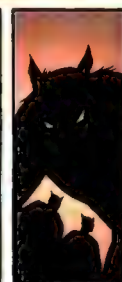
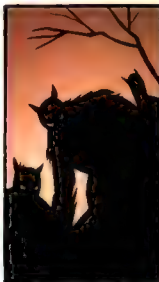
WHATEVER
SCARS I GIVE
YOU BEFORE
I TURN YOU
WILL BE WITH
YOU FOR
ETERNITY!













FANG MAIL

Send letters to
Robert Kirkman, P.O. Box 1870, Richmond, KY 40476
or e-mail, wolfman@funkotron.com

Holy crap.

Hello all, this is Sina Grace, Robert's not-so-good editor.

It's been a few days between issues, we are aware. The excuse? Robert prefers the best-looking book over a rushed-looking book that is drawn by seven different artists (and I have experienced the latter... it is not cute).

And also, Robert doesn't always get the script to Jason as fast as he should, and frankly Ryan and Charlie are fast enough to pick up Robert's slack most of the time... Jason is only monthly, so he's not. -Robert

Boy-howdy, are we going to do our best to get you the final issue in a timely manner. You won't wait too many moons for that, I swear.

Now, onto letters...

All Hail Kirkman,

Great run on Wolf-Man, kept me intrigued the whole series, so much potential, it is really...astounding. I'm going to miss it. I do think this is a great test run for Science Dog, am I right? Is that the big project you're working on? What better way to show there is a market of the k-9 variety Looking forward to it... the best place is IMAGE-ination!

Lance

PS. a great title for Science Dog's letter age...Kibbles and Bits

There is nothing I would love more than a Science Dog ongoing. To shut you up, there will be a one-shot coming out in August, and a new backup in Invincible 75.

The Science Dog one-shot is a reprint of the Science Dog chapters from issues 25 and 50 of Invincible, it's only new if you've just been reading Invincible in collected form. -Robert

Lance, go start a fan page called Kibbles and Bits so that way I can show it to Robert and tell him we need to make a Science Dog plush doll (cue furry praise).

Robert Kirkman,

I have been reading your book since the beginning and I honestly think it is your best book right now (except for The Walking Dead of course) and it's a shame that it won't be going past 25, but I think I'll be very happy about how it ends. I think issue 23 was by far my favorite issue so far, Mecha-Maid turning into a turret and strapping on to hunter's arm was freakin' awesome! And last but not least I liked the death of Dunford, and although it broke my heart to see him go, I think it was a great way to add tragedy to the story. Anyway please write back

Dexter Everett

Dexter, rather than write you back, I would prefer to have your letter published!

I never cared much for Dunford, either. He was such a tampon. That's a lie, actually. There are few things I cannot forgive Robert for doing, and killing Dunford is one of them.

Actually, that was a lie, too. I can take it or leave it.

Kirkman and Co.,

Legacy: Part Three of Five was a riot cover to cover... I absolutely loved it. Dunford's demise can't even really sink in for us before our hero is besieged by scores of tribal werewolves... The Hunter/Mecha-Maid Fusion (and the subsequent carnage) was pretty suite here too, but all the fantastic visuals right out the gate all pale in comparison when you look at the series of "silent" panels immediately following the attack (very nice Jason)... That is some heavy stuff right there, and as per usual, FCO and Ivan Plascencia provide the luster and finish that brings it all together in its glorious, gritty goodness

Now I realize I may sound like a broken record here (having said this in one way or another in just about every letter I've written), but anything to do with Mecha-Maid absolutely rocks (I'm very much looking forward to if and when she meets a certain Robot we all know and love). Elise receiving her own body from her mother was very cool (akin to letting one's child "fly from the nest", I guess), I hope to see her more in the future provided she doesn't get pwn3d in the next two months. Seeing Damien Darkblood make an appearance is always a treat too, I love how straight and to the point he always seems to be... He fits in perfectly with this book, I'm glad you worked him in before the Grand Finale in a few short months

I, too like the Mecha-Maid stuff. Robert was totally going to "pull the plug" on her a long time ago, but I was like "No Robert, don't! Mecha-Maid is awesome and fans love her!" and he was like, "What? I'm Robert Kirkman, my ideas are GOLD!" and I was like "PLZ?" and he was like "O OK."

Robert and I have great text message conversations.

The preceding conversation never actually happened. I've always loved Mecha-Maid. -Robert

I'm certainly looking forward to the penultimate chapter of *The Astounding Wolf-Man*, but this issue just reminds me of how much I will be missing... I am glad to see all the long woven plot threads (and even some newer ones) coming together for what I'm sure will be a great finish... You know what they say about All Good Things.

Random Suggestion, btw Any chance we will ever see an *Astounding Wolf-Man* Tee Shirt? I'm thinking just Black w/ the Red Logo, front and center? I would totally rock it...

You would look good in it, yes. We would even have you model it like American Apparel, where you're doing a lewd pose atop a bathroom sink.

Jason, I love the Code Blue backups, brotha/ and I'm looking forward to *Sea Bear & Grizzly Shark* next month... Sina, welcome to the Jungle, baby, we've got fun and games!!!!

Thanks! Glad to be here!

Robert, the Stitch Blue suits you./ literally. I hope you can make it out to B-More this August, but be advised it may be a little hot for your furry attire.

He also has Fred Flinstone. Not really for his Furry nights out, but it's a lot more breathable.

See ya next time, when the Elder takes Gary to school!!!!

CODE, BLUE

BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 3 OF 4

STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD

OK. TELL
ME *THIS* CADE,
IF YOU'RE FROM
ANOTHER WORLD,
THEN HOW DO
YOU SPEAK
ENGLISH?

NO WAIT,
I KNOW. YOU'VE
GOT AN EARPIECE
TRANSLATOR THAT
ALLOWS YOU TO
UNDERSTAND ANY
LANGUAGE.

THAT'S
RIDICULOUS.
EVERYBODY
ON COREQ
SPEAKS
THIS WAY.





YOU AND
YER BOYS
WENT TOO FAR
LAST NIGHT,
CHOPSTIX!



NOT MY
BOYS... I
DON'T RUN
WITH THEM
NO...



LET
HIM
GO!

WUUNGH...

FORGET
IT CADE!
COME
ON!

MAN, YOU SHOULD
NOT HAVE DONE
THAT. THAT WAS A
COP. WE ARE GOING
TO HAVE TO STAY
OUT OF SIGHT
FOR A WHILE.

A COP?
WHAT, ARE
THEY LIKE
THE REDS?

NO THE COPS
ARE... WELL,
THEY ARE SORT
OF THE GOOD
GUYS.

BUT HE
WAS AFTER
YOU?

YEAH. ME AND
OFFICER BRICK
DON'T ALWAYS
SEE THINGS
THE SAME.

YOU SURE THAT YOU DON'T
WANT UNDER HERE? IT'S BEEN
RAINING **ALL** DAY AND IT
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S
GOING TO QUIT SOON.

NO, I'M
OK. SORRY
AGAIN ABOUT
THE COP...

AH, IT'S FINE.
I **REALLY** AM GLAD
YOU STEPPED IN. BESIDES,
BRICK IS **ALWAYS** HASSLING
ME ABOUT SOMETHING.
HE'LL FORGET ABOUT
IT IN A WEEK.

GOOD
I...

WELL, **THIS**
IS MY RIDE.

TAKE CARE
CHOPSTIX.





CONTINUED...

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THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MEN

LEGACY
PART FIVE OF FIVE

**ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA**



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writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker
colorist pages 25-28

RUS WOOTON
letterer

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
colorists

SINA GRACE
editor

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by **ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD**



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I DON'T CARE
WHAT YOU WANT
OR WHY YOU'RE
HERE. STAND ASIDE,
ELDER--THIS HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH YOU.

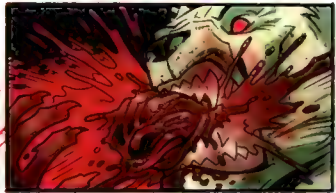
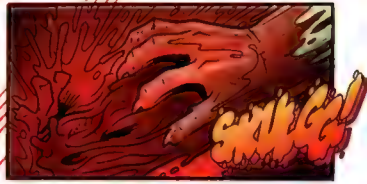


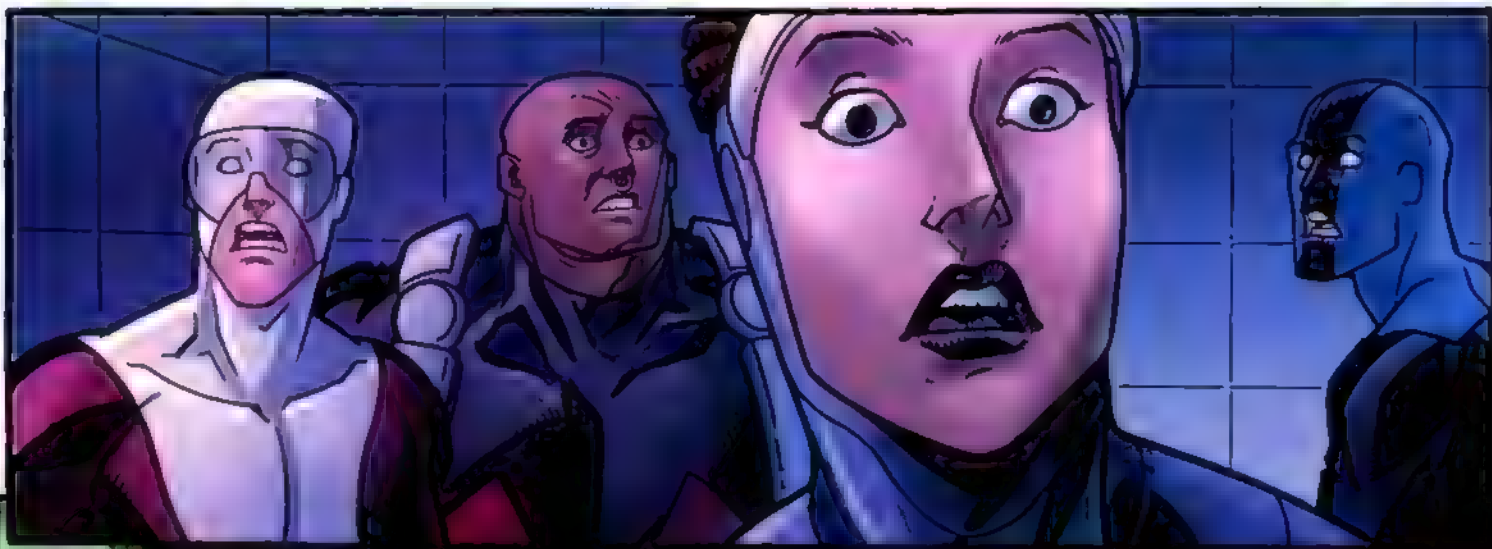
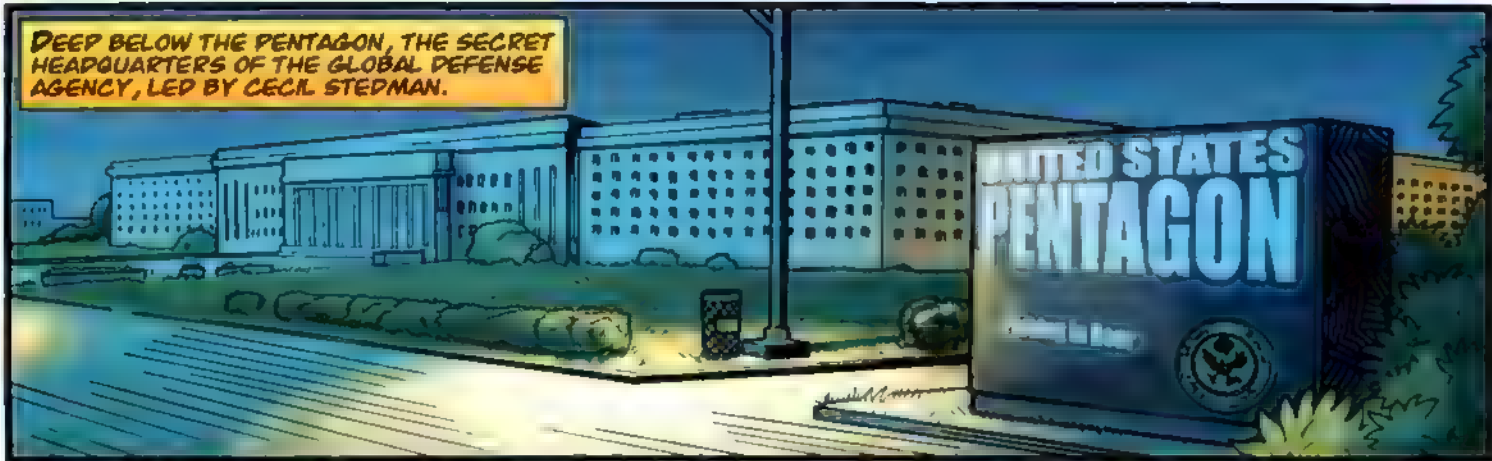
GARY, LISTEN
TO ME, THIS MAY
BE OUR ONLY
CHANCE--WHATEVER
OUR DIFFERENCES, WE
CAN SETTLE THEM
LATER, YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
DANGEROUS
HE IS.

TOGETHER
WE COULD
KILL HIM,
TOGETHER
WE--



THIS
CONFLICT
DOES NOT
CONCERN YOU,
VAMPIRE.







I REFUSE TO TOLERATE HIS INTERFERENCE ANY LONGER.

PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, GARY HAMPTON-- YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR DAUGHTER, THEY ARE IN NO DANGER HERE. THEY ARE FREE TO LEAVE IF THEY WISH.

MY INTEREST IS IN YOU.

IF THEY INTERFERE IN THE FIGHT TO COME, THEIR SAFETY WILL NO LONGER BE GUARANTEED.

IT IS THEIR CHOICE TO MAKE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME ALL OF A SUDDEN? YOU SAY YOU NEED TO TEST MY WORTH. FOR WHAT?

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE WORTHY OF?

EVERYTHING!

NO!

WE'RE OUT-NUMBERED! DO AS HE SAYS-- DON'T INTERFERE! THIS IS MY FIGHT!

RIGHT YOU ARE--



THIS
FIGHT WILL
BE YOUR
DEATH!

KR



BUT
WHY?!

I STILL
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY?!



YOUR
TRANSFORMATION
WAS NO
ACCIDENT.

I DID
NOT HAPPEN
UPON YOU BY
CHANCE. I'D
BEEN FOLLOWING
YOUR LIFE FOR
YEARS.



WHEN I WAS FIRST
TURNED I WAS
DRIVEN BY MY LUST
FOR POWER. YOU
HAVE BUT A FRACTION
OF THE POWER
I POSSESS.

BUT FOR
ME IT WAS NOT
ENOUGH--I
WANTED MORE
AND I WOULD
STOP AT
NOTHING TO
GET IT.

MY RISE
TO POWER
HAS NEARLY
DESTROYED
OUR KIND--WE
ARE NEARLY
ALL THAT
REMAIN.



I CAME FROM NOTHING,
BORN IN BLOOD, DELIVERED
TO THIS WORLD. I AM
CORRUPTED. I USED MY
NEWFOUND POWERS TO
BRING ME STATUS, TO
LORD OVER THOSE
BENEATH ME.

MAKE NO
MISTAKE, ALL
THOSE YOU SEE
HERE SERVE ME,
UNQUESTIONING--
BUT THEY DO NOT
DO SO OUT OF LOVE...
OR RESPECT... IT
IS THEIR FEAR OF
ME THAT KEEPS
THEM LOYAL.



AND I HAVE
HAD ENOUGH
OF IT.

YOU WERE
ALWAYS INTENDED
TO BE MY
REPLACEMENT.

YOU WERE
CHOSEN.

WIRROOO

WHEN I WAS TURNED,
THERE WAS NOT ONE
ELDER BUT MANY. WE
WERE RULED BY THE
COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

IN A TIME FORGOTTEN, WE
COMMANDED THE MOVEMENT
OF CIVILIZATION ON EARTH.

WE WERE ALL-POWERFUL...
BUT I WAS NOT CONTENT.

ONE BY ONE--
I MURDERED
THE COUNCIL...
UNTIL I WAS THE
ONE TRUE ELDER
REMAINING.

ALONE, I NOT ONLY
CONTROLLED ALL
OF OUR KIND--
BUT ALL OF MAN.

BUT I DID NOT LEAD WELL.
MAN EVENTUALLY TURNED
AGAINST US AND WE WERE
DRIVEN INTO HIDING.

I MAINTAINED CONTROL OVER
OUR KIND THROUGH FEAR--
AND OVER TIME--LEGEND.
BUT MY FOLLY HAD FOREVER
SCAFFEED US--WE WOULD
FOREVER LIVE OUR LIVES
IN HIDING.

I TOLD OF A TIME OF GATHERING
THAT WOULD COME--WHEN WE
WOULD RECLAIM OUR RIGHTFUL
PLACE IN THIS WORLD...

...AND I BEGAN A LIFE
OF SECLUSION, SHAMED
BY MY ACTIONS, WHAT I'D
ALLOWED MY AMBITION
AND GREED TO BRING
UPON US ALL.

THERE I REMAINED...
UNTIL I FOUND YOU.



IT WAS YEARS AGO WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED YOU. AT FIRST A FAMILY MAN LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.

I OBSERVED YOU DURING YOUR LEISURE TIME. I WATCHED YOU FOR MANY YEARS. SOMETHING ABOUT YOU STUCK WITH ME.



YOUR COMPASSION FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE...



YOUR DEVOTION TO YOUR MATE...



YOUR COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO YOUR FAMILY...



I EVENTUALLY OBSERVED YOU IN YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENT. I LEARNED THAT YOU WERE ALREADY A MAN OF GREAT POWER.

YOU WERE PERFECT... YOU WOULDN'T BE CORRUPTED BY THE POWER OF BEING AN ELDER AS I WAS.

IT WOULD HOLD NO ALLURE FOR YOU... NO ADDED MYSTIQUE.



SO I MADE MY CHOICE...

...AND I STRUCK.



YOU WANT ME TO SUCCEED YOU AS ELDER? THAT'S IT? THEN WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME!

TO PROVE YOUR WORTH!



THIS BATTLE IS NOT FOR ME!

IT IS NOT FOR YOU!

IT IS FOR THEM!



I WANT YOU TO BEAT ME. I LONG FOR THE RELEASE OF DEATH--I'VE LIVED FAR TOO LONG AND MY TIME AS ELDER HAS BEEN SQUANDERED.

I AM A FAILURE AND I DESERVE TO DIE.

BUT IF YOU CANNOT BEST ME IN COMBAT-- YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF MY TITLE.



KRON!

THEY WILL NEVER FOLLOW YOU IF THEY DO NOT RESPECT YOU--FEAR YOU.

YOU WILL SEE, YOU--!

THIS IS INSANE!



STAY FOCUSED--
USE YOUR
HATRED OF ME
TO DRIVE
YOU!

I CAUSED THIS! YOUR
LIFE IS IN RUINS, YOUR
WIFE DEAD, YOUR
DAUGHTER CHANGED,
YOUR FRIEND
MURDERED BY
MY ORDER!

USE
IT!



WHAT IS
WRONG
WITH
YOU?!

WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS?!



CAN'T
YOU
SEE?!



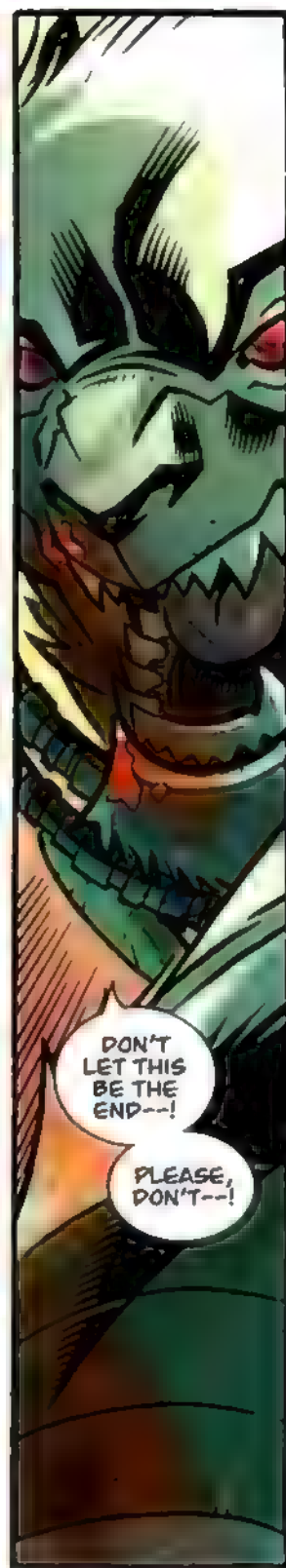
I'VE
RUINED
US!

YOU'RE
OUR LAST HOPE,
GARY HAMPTON--
I'VE CHOSEN YOU
TO REDEEM
US.



YOU'RE
RUNNING
OUT OF AIR...
YOU STILL NEED
TO BREATHE,
YOU KNOW.

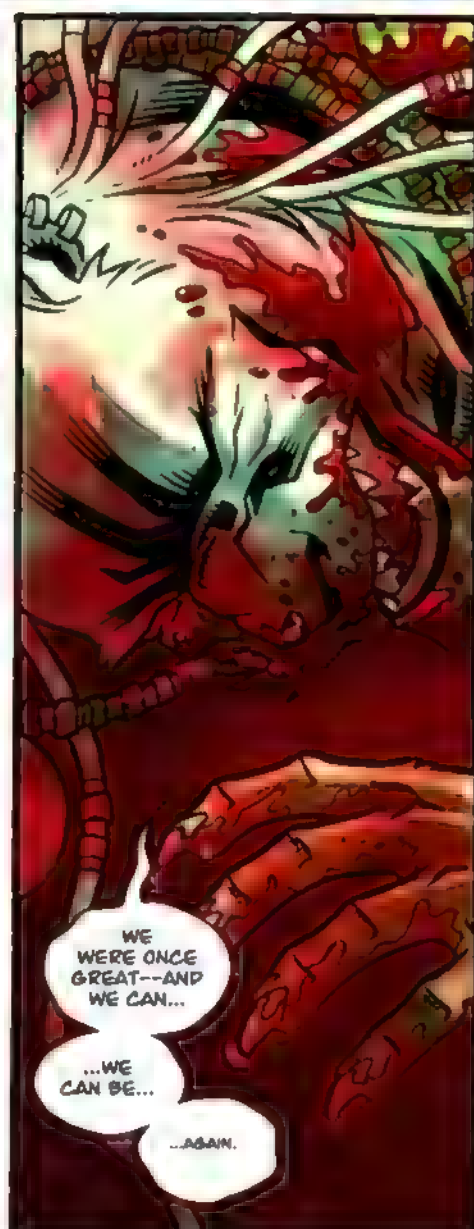
FIGHT
BACK.
FIGHT!

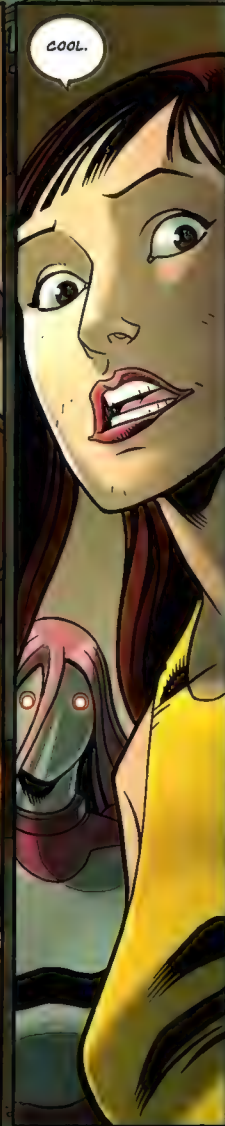


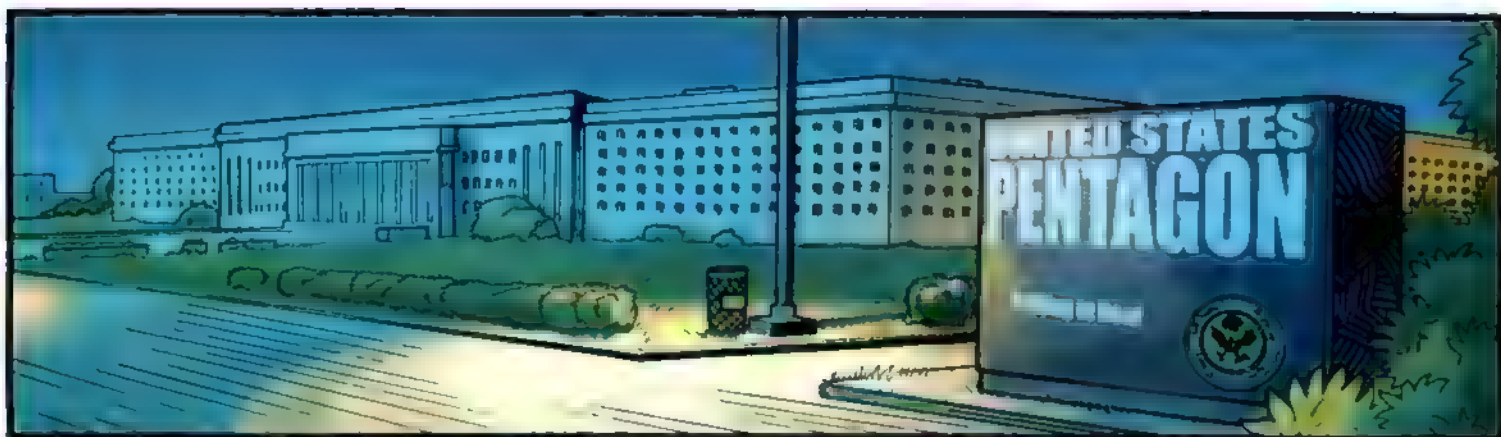
DON'T
LET THIS
BE THE
END--!

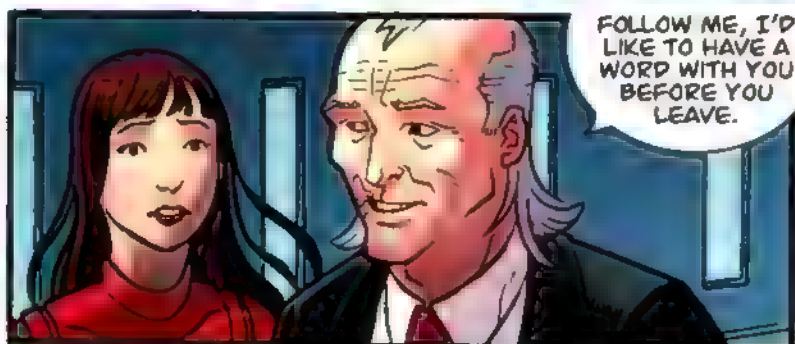
PLEASE,
DON'T--!











CYPRESS HILL CEMETERY.



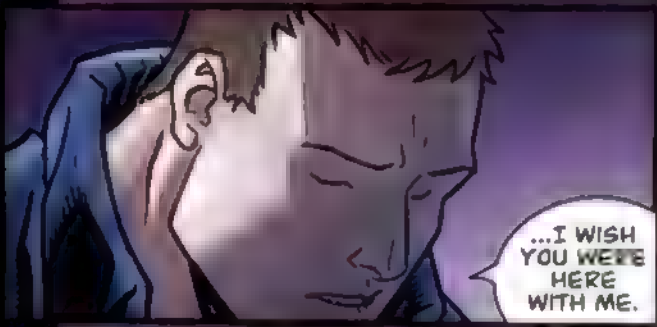
I'M STARTING A
NEW JOURNEY,
REBECCA...
THINGS ARE
CHANGING YET
AGAIN.



HUSBAND,
SUPERHERO,
WIDOWER, FUGITIVE,
HERO AGAIN... I
DON'T REALLY
KNOW WHAT'S
NEXT FOR ME.

REBECCA
LOVING N

WHAT I
DO KNOW
IS...

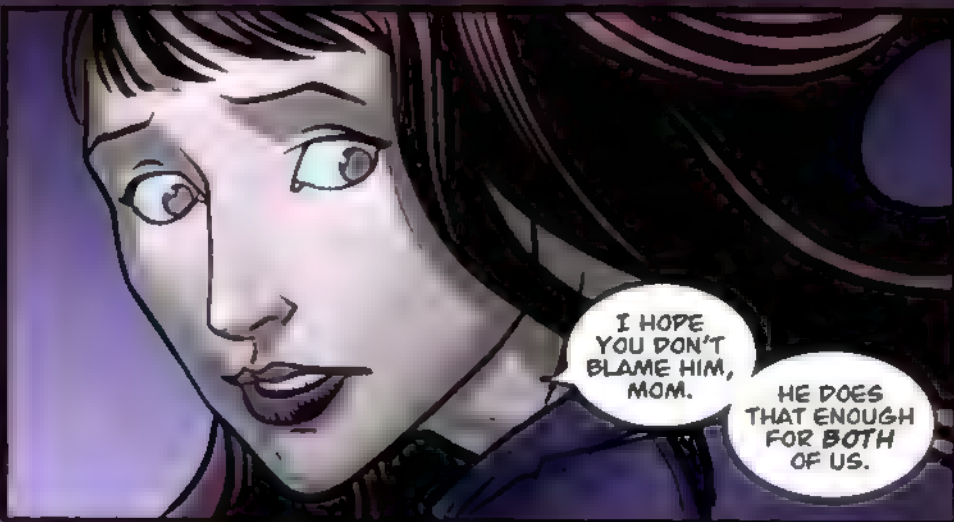
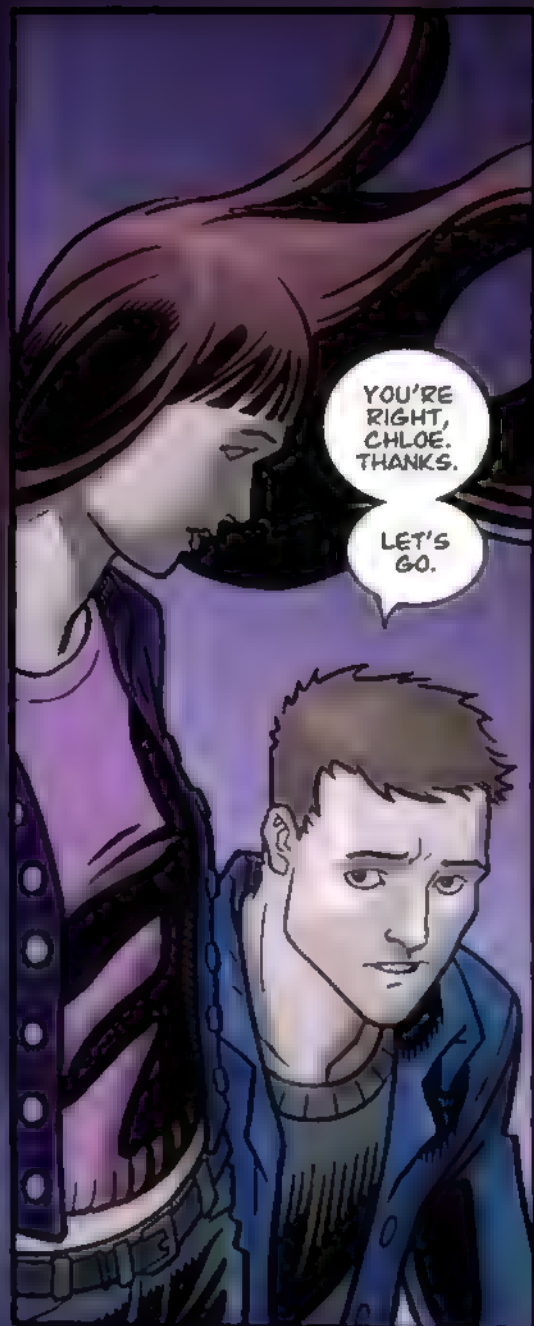


...I WISH
YOU WERE
HERE
WITH ME.



I'M SO
SORRY,
I--

COME ON,
DAD. WE SHOULD
BE GOING. THEY'RE
WAITING FOR US
AT THE HOUSE.





JACOBSEN,
I HOPE THINGS
ARE GOING
WELL HERE.

IT'S
GOOD
TO SEE
YOU.



YOU AS WELL, GARY, WHAT
YOU'VE DONE HERE IS A
MARVEL. SO MANY OF THESE
PEOPLE HAVE NEVER EVEN
LIVED INDOORS, TO TAKE
THEM IN... YOU CAN'T
KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
TO THEM...



...AND HOW MUCH
THEY REGRET THINGS
THAT WERE DONE
UNDER THE COMMAND
OF THE PREVIOUS
ELDER...

THINGS
THAT CANNOT
BE UNDONE.



DAMAGE
WAS DONE
FROM BOTH
SIDES.

ALL IS
FORGIVEN--
IT HAS TO
BE IF THIS IS
GOING TO
WORK.



THEY WILL
BE HAPPY
TO HEAR
THAT.

I UNDERSTAND
THE NORTHERN
WINGS HAS BEEN
CONVERTED TO
LIVING QUARTERS,
ARE YOU SURE
YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO MAKE DUE
WITHOUT A
THEATRE
ROOM?

I THINK
I'LL
MANAGE.



I SEE
YOU'VE FOUND
MANY MORE
WILLING TO JOIN
OUR CAUSE.
THANKS FOR
BRINGING THEM.
I WANT ALL TO
KNOW THEY ARE
WELCOME
HERE.

ALL I
KNOW OF ARE
HERE, WE ARE
GATHERED,
AND WE ARE
WAITING FOR
YOUR COMMAND.
WHAT IS NEXT
FOR US?



EVERYTHING.

I SENSE
A GREAT
DISTURBANCE
IN THE ORDER
OF THINGS...
YES...

MUCH HAS
TRANPIRED,
THERE HAVE
BEEN MANY
CHANGES...

MY MINIONS
REPORT ALL TO
THEIR LORD AND
MASTER, FOR THEY
ARE GOOD MINIONS,
AND THAT IS
WHAT THEY
DO.

ZECHARIAH,
LONG A THORN
IN MY SIDE, IS NO
MORE--AND THE
OPPOSITION IS IN
DISARRAY AS I
SEE THE ELDER
TOO, HAS
FALLEN.

THIS
NEW ELDER
IS UNKNOWN
TO ME... I WILL
HAVE TO KEEP A
CLOSE EYE ON
HIM... YES, WE
ALL WILL.

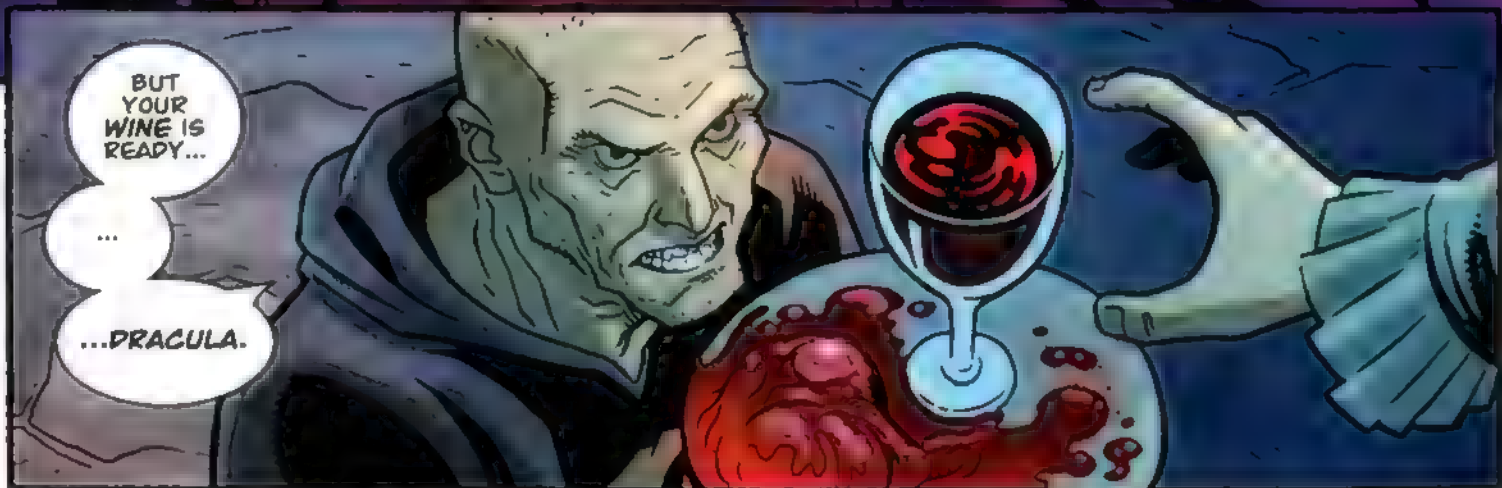


EXCUSE
ME...

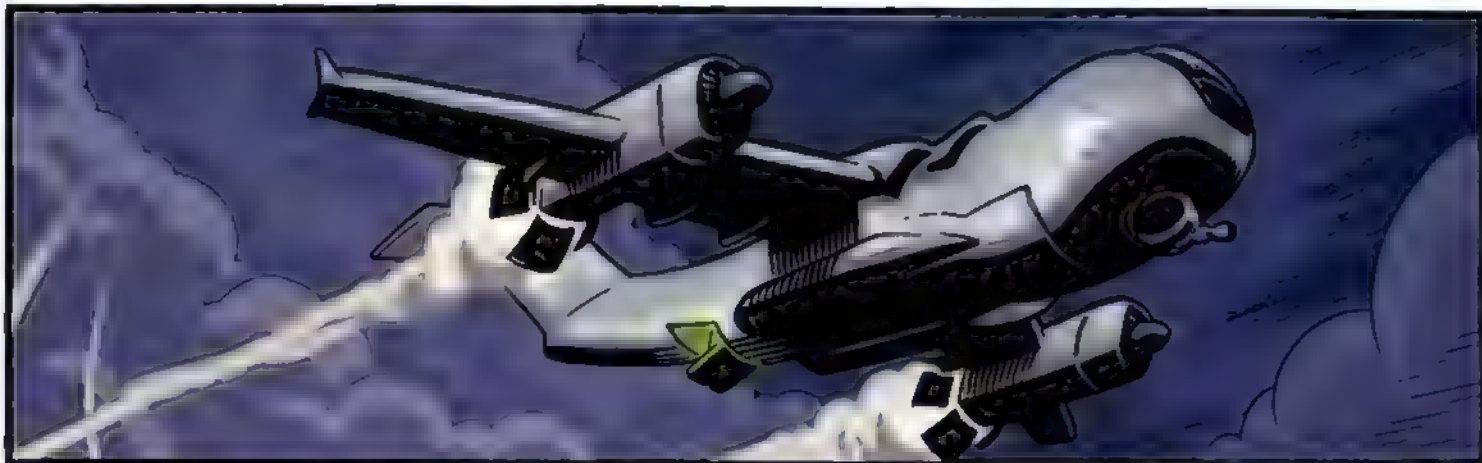
BUT
YOUR
WINE IS
READY...

...

...PRACULA.



EPILOQUE.



OKAY,
EVERYONE--
LISTEN
UP.

THESE THINGS
TOOK DOWN AN ENTIRE
CAPES ASSAULT TEAM A
FEW WEEKS BACK--THIS
IS GOING TO BE A REAL
TEST FOR OUR
CAPABILITIES.

BE
PREPARED.

ON TOP OF
THAT, WE'VE
GOT EXACTLY ONE
HOUR OF MOONLIGHT
LEFT, SO WE'RE
GOING TO NEED TO
WRAP THIS ONE
UP QUICK.

LINE UP--
PREPARE TO
DEPLOY!

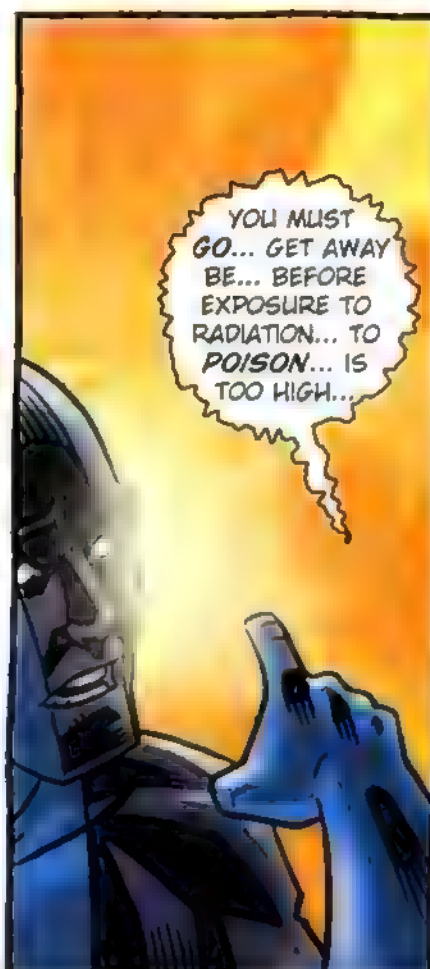
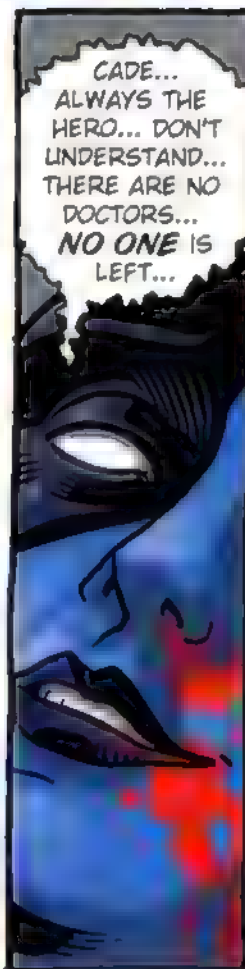
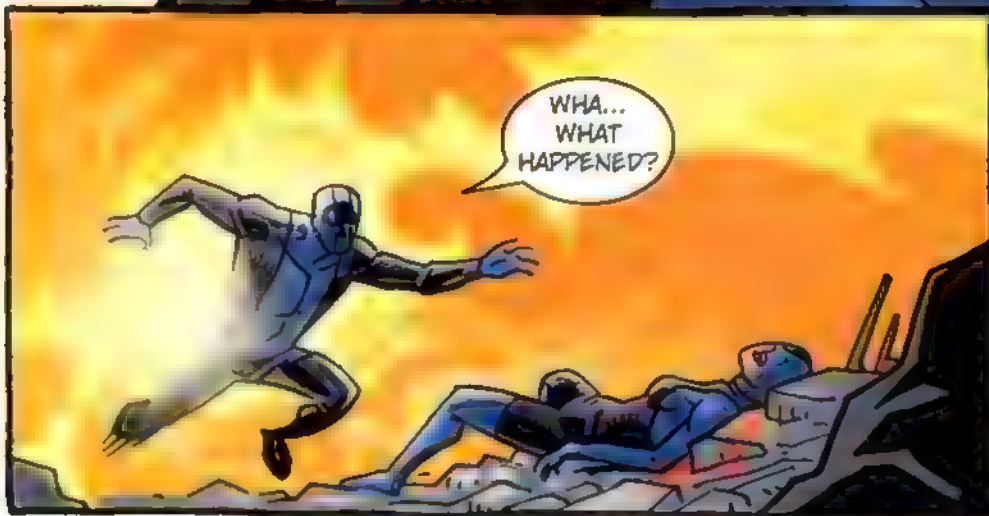


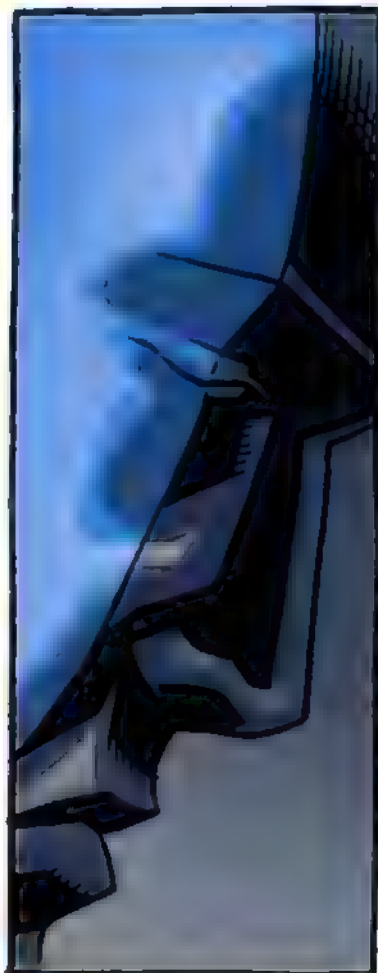
HERE
WE GO!



**WOLFCORPS
ATTACK!**

THE END?









SOMEBODY
IS QUITE THE
ACTRESS...



I DIDN'T
THINK IT WOULD
FEEL LIKE THIS.
CADE... HE
WAS...



ELYN, IT *HAD*
TO BE DONE THIS WAY.
THERE ARE OTHER, NATURAL,
PATHS BACK HERE FROM EARTH.
CADE *HAS* TO BELIEVE THAT
HIS WORLD IS *DEAD* SO
THAT HE WON'T LOOK
FOR A WAY HOME.



I *STILL*
DON'T SEE WHY WE
COULDN'T HAVE JUST
BROUGHT HIM IN. *TOLD*
HIM ABOUT EARTH
AND THE WAR AND
YOUR PLAN.



NO! HE'S NOT
READY YET. I HAD TWO
VISIONS. IN ONE *BOTH* OUR
WORLDS WERE DESTROYED. IN
THE OTHER THEY WERE UNITED IN
PEACE. CADE IS THE FULCRUM,
THE *KEY* TO OUR FUTURE. BUT
HIS POWER IS STILL
DORMANT.

TOMM,
HOLOGRAM.



YES SIR.
POWERING
IT DOWN.

VEEP?

THE *REAL* RED
INVASION WILL BEGIN
SOON. BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORTS
TO INFILTRATE THE BLUE ARMY, I'LL
BE ABLE TO MAKE SURE THE WAR
DOESN'T END IN MUTUAL
DEVASTATION. BUT IT WILL
BE *VICIOUS*.

WE CAN *NOT*
RISK CADE BEING ONE
OF THE EARLY CASUALTIES.
WE NEED HIM *OFF THE*
BOARD UNTIL HE'S READY.
THE SOURCE WORLD IS THE
PERFECT INCUBATOR FOR
HIM. THE FREQUENCY
DIFFERENCE WILL TRIGGER
AN EVOLUTION. AND ONCE
HE HAS FULLY MATURED
WE WILL BRING HIM
HOME.

TRUST ME
ON THIS. NOW,
LET'S GO *BETRAY*
OUR RED COMRADES,
AND MAKE SURE
THERE IS A WORLD
LEFT FOR CADE
TO *SAVE*.

HEY
CADE, YOU
WANT SOME
SOUP?

NO.
THANKS.

FEELING
OK MAN? YOU
HAVEN'T EATEN
IN DAYS...

MY WORLD
IS GONE. MY
FRIENDS ARE
GONE... I... I
HAVE NOTHING
LEFT.

THAT STUFF
HITS US *ALL*
SOMETIMES. THE
THINGS WE USED TO
LIVE FOR... WHAT
OUR LIVES *USED* TO
BE. IN TIME YOU'LL
FIND A NEW
REASON...

YEEARGH!!!

THAT
SOUNDED LIKE
CHOPSTIX...



THE END.